

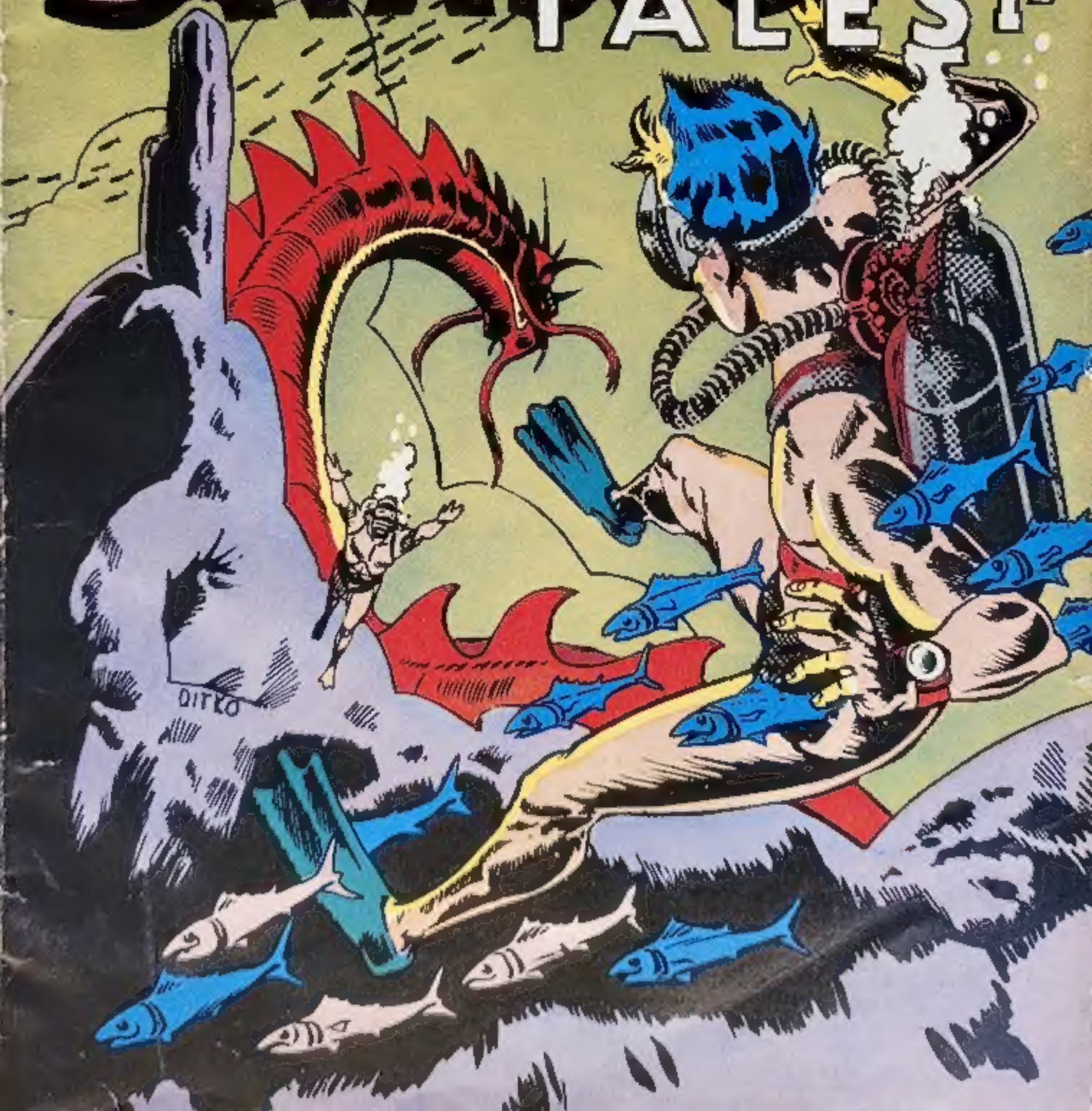
FULL
68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES



Nº
67

Sinister TALES 1½



THERE WAS THIS AMERICAN TANK CAPTAIN OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, SEE... AND THIS UNION LIEUTENANT FROM WAY BACK IN CIVIL WAR TIMES! AT LEAST, THERE WERE THEIR SPIRITS... BUT THEN THEY GOT MIXED UP! IT WAS A MAD, FERRIE SORT OF MIX-UP THAT'LL CHASE SHUDDERS UP AND DOWN YOUR SPINE AS YOU READ THE TENSE TALE TITLED

"SORRY, YOU'VE *got the* WRONG GHOSTS!"



WE OPEN IN A GRAVEYARD... CORRECTION! NOT A REGULAR GRAVEYARD, BUT AN UNKEMPT, OVERGROWN PLOT ADJOINING ONE. NOBODY EVER COMES THERE TO VISIT THE TWO GRAVES... YOU SEE, THIS IS UNHALLOWED GROUND, AND THERE'S A STORY ABOUT EACH OF THE STONES... A SHAMEFUL STORY...



THIS STONE MARKS THE GRAVE OF RICHARD FORREST, LIEUTENANT IN THE UNION ARMY. HIS STORY'S WORTH HEARING, DESPITE ITS SHAME. SO WE'RE GOING TO TELL IT TO YOU... NOW!



PLOT:
ADAM
BARR
ART:
TRAPANI

SINISTER TALES No. 67

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IT ALL STARTED WHEN A GROUP OF NORTHERN SOLDIERS WAS ATTACKED BY A LARGE BAND OF GUERRILLAS. THE TIME WAS EARLY IN 1963...



WE'LL TRY TO FIGHT 'EM OFF FROM BEHIND THAT WALL!

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE BATTLE, THE UNION COMMANDER, COLONEL GRIMES, WAS BADLY WOUNDED...



OH-HHHH!

THE COLONEL'S SHOT!

LIEUTENANT RICHARD FORREST HAD THE JOB OF REPORTING TO THE COLONEL ON THE PROGRESS OF THE BATTLE...

THEY OUTNUMBER US BADLY, SIR. IT'S ...JUST A MATTER OF TIME, I'M AFRAID.



I WOULDN'T...ASK THIS OF ONE OF THE MEN... BUT AN OFFICER HAS A HIGHER DUTY. YOU'VE GOT TO...TRY TO GET THROUGH THEIR LINES... AND BRING HELP IN TIME TO SAVE THE COMPANY!

BUT HOW CAN I GET THROUGH THEIR LINES? WE'RE SURROUNDED!

I WAS...RAISED IN THESE PARTS. THIS OLD PLACE... USED TO BE A WINERY TUNNEL BENEATH IT...FOLLOW IT...AND IT WILL LET YOU OUT... AT A POINT ALMOST PAST THE ENEMY LINES, AND MAYBE...YOU CAN BRING IN HELP... SAME WAY...



I...I DON'T THINK I'VE GOT A CHANCE OF GETTING THROUGH THE GUERRILLA LINES! THERE'S STILL A GOOD DISTANCE TO GO TO GET BEYOND THEM AFTER I GET OUT OF THIS T-TUNNEL...



SUPPOSE THEY CAPTURE ME? SUPPOSE THEY ...K-KILL ME?



I *KNEW* IT...THERE THEY ARE! IT WILL BE ALL UP WITH ME, UNLESS... UNLESS...







...AND YOU'RE A YELLA SKUNK!

BANG!



WELL, THAT WAS THE STORY OF RICHARD FORREST, KILLED DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND REFUSED A GRAVE IN HALLOWED GROUND... WHICH IS WHY HE LIES HERE! THAT OTHER GRAVE...? THAT'S GOT A STORY, TOO, THE STORY OF CAPTAIN HANK STEELE! GET READY TO HEAR THIS ONE, TOO...



IT BEGINS WITH WORLD WAR II. D-DAY WAS PAST... AND ALLIED ARMIES WERE FANNING OUT ACROSS EUROPE...



HANK STEELE, COMMANDING A TANK SQUADRON, HAD HAD IT EASY SO FAR. AND HE WAS CHAFING FOR ACTION...

WHEN THEY CALL FOR ME TO COME IN FIGHTING, THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU'RE GONNA SEE... DOUBLED IN BRASS, BOY, I JUST CAN'T WAIT FOR A REAL HOT ASSIGNMENT!



THE ASSIGNMENT, WHEN IT CAME, WAS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HE'D ANTICIPATED...

WE JUST GOT WORD OF THIS... AND IT SPELLS REAL TROUBLE. THE RETREATING GERMANS HAVE ENTERED THE TOWN OF LAVANCHE, TAKING LARGE NUMBERS OF HOSTAGES WHO ARE TO BE EXECUTED IN THE MORNING. A LOT OF THEM ARE IMPORTANT RESISTANCE OFFICIALS... AND THEY'VE GOT TO BE SAVED!



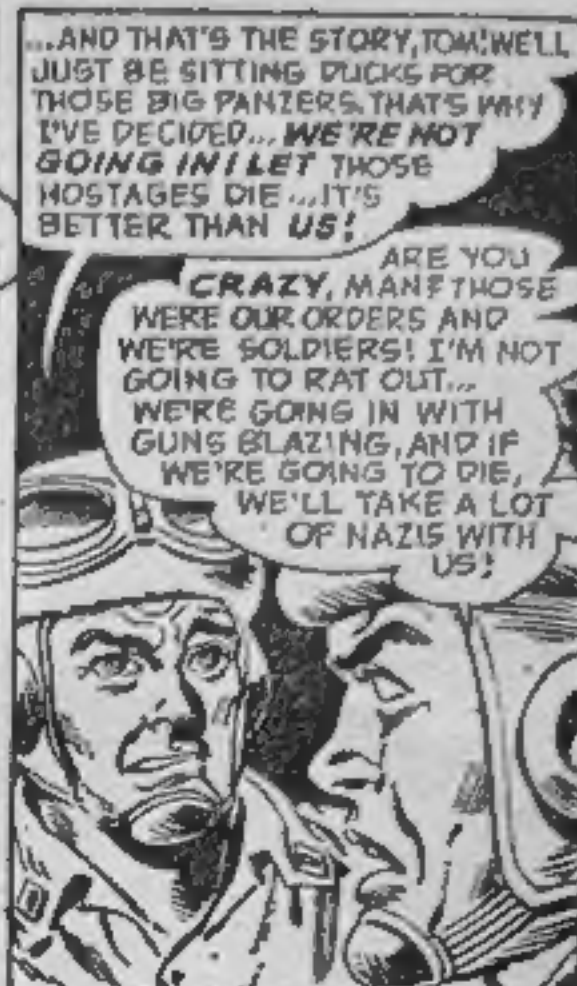
YOU'VE GOT THE ONLY TANKS WITH A CHANCE OF REACHING THEM IN TIME... WHICH MEANS YOU'RE ELECTED! THE DIFFICULTY IS THE NAZIS HAVE A WHOLE COMPANY OF HEAVY PANZER TANKS... TWICE AS MANY AS YOU'VE GOT AND MORE HEAVILY ARMED!

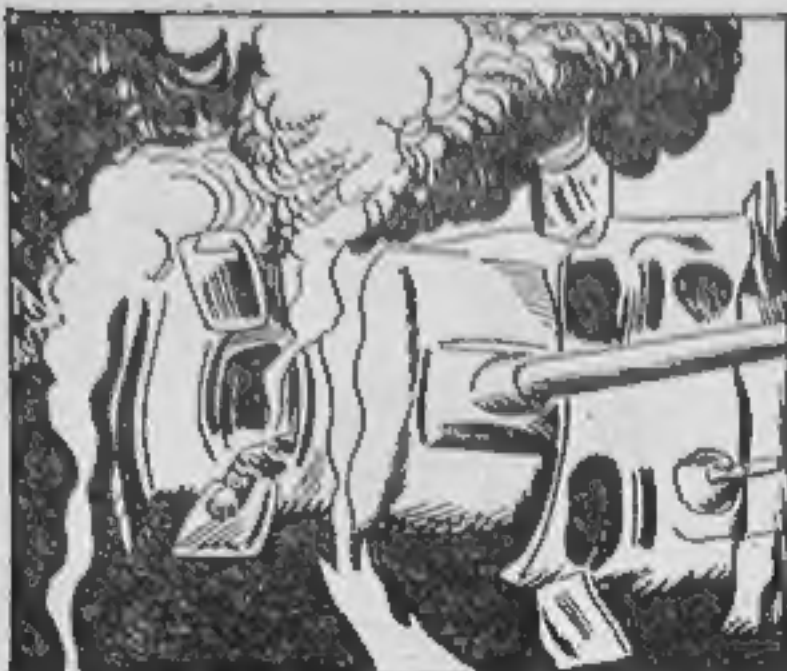
BUT... BUT THAT'S SUICIDE! WE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE! I... I CAN'T...



HOLD IT! YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF REFUSING TO OBEY ORDERS, ARE YOU CAPTAIN? YOU AND YOUR TANKS ARE LEAVING RIGHT NOW... YOU'RE HEADING FOR LAVANCHE AT TOP SPEED... AND YOU'LL EITHER ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION OR DIE TRYING! IS THAT CLEAR?

YES, SIR. IT... IT'S CLEAR... PERFECTLY...





THAT'S THE STORY OF THE TWO GRAVES... NOW WE KNOW WHY THEIR OCCUPANTS WERE REFUSED BURIAL IN HALLOWED GROUND. THERE THEY WERE AS THE YEARS ROLLED ON... LONELY... NEGLECTED...



BUT WHEN GHOSTS ARE NOT AT REST... THEY WALK!



I'VE TOLD YOU MY STORY... NOW YOU KNOW WHY I CAN NEVER REST.

WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT... BOTH OF US COWARDS, BOTH FAITHLESS TO OUR TRUSTS.

WE BROUGHT DISGRACE NOT ONLY UPON OURSELVES, BUT UPON THIS TOWN OF OUR BIRTH. THEY WERE RIGHT IN REFUSING US BURIAL IN HALLOWED GROUND!



BUT HAVEN'T WE BEEN PUNISHED SUFFICIENTLY? HAVEN'T WE REPENTED OF OUR TERRIBLE SINS? PEOPLE... EVEN GHOST-PEOPLE... SHOULDN'T SUFFER MISERY LIKE THIS!

YOU'RE RIGHT. EVEN MURDERERS ARE ALLOWED THE RIGHT OF APPEAL... WHY NOT US?



SO THEY PREPARED THEIR APPEALS... APPEALS TO THE UNKNOWN ITSELF...



I DO NOT DENY MY TERRIBLE GUILT, BUT I CLAIM THAT I HAVE PAID FOR IT OVER MANY TIMES...

...AND SINCE I REPENT MY CRIME TO THE LAST DROP OF MY FORMER BLOOD...

THAT'S DONE... BUT WAIT! HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET OUR APPEALS UP TO THE UNKNOWN, CHAINED TO EARTH AS WE ARE? WE'VE WASTED OUR TIME AND EFFORT.

NO WE HAVEN'T. LOOK!





THERE THEY GO... UP TOWARDS THE UNKNOWN!



AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, DOWN CAME AN EMISSARY FROM SPIRIT LAND...



OKAY, FELLAS... EVERYBODY UP!

RAP!
RAP!
RAP!



AHEM! I'M THE APPEALS AGENT... FROM THE UNKNOWN, YOU KNOW!



WHEREAS WE'VE GONE OVER YOUR CASES VERY CLOSELY... AND **WHEREAS** YOU RECEIVED A FAIR TRIAL FOLLOWING YOUR DEATHS, THE JURY IS UNANIMOUS IN ITS VERDICT. I QUOTE: "**WHEREAS** YOU WERE CHICKEN, WITH YELLOW STREAKS A MILE WIDE... AND **WHEREAS** BOTH OF YOU CAUSED MANY GOOD MEN TO LOSE THEIR LIVES... **APPEAL DENIED!**"



SORRY, DON'T YOU KNOW...

???

!!!



YOU CAN'T DO
THIS TO US,
JUST LIKE THAT!
MURDERERS GET
A SECOND CHANCE
...WHY NOT US?

SO HELP US, IF YOU DON'T GIVE US A
BREAK, WE'LL BUST UP YOUR DERBY
WITH YOUR OWN UMBRELLA ... RIP
UP YOUR BRIEFCASE ...

NO... NO!

HOW CAN I EVER BE A
PROPER APPEALS AGENT WITH-
OUT THEM? DECISION REVERSED
...**APPEAL GRANTED!**
EACH OF YOU WILL RECEIVE
...**A SECOND CHANCE!**



SO LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENED, SHALL WE? WE'LL BEGIN WITH CAPTAIN HANK STEELE AS THE FORCES OF THE UNKNOWN GROUND INTO MOTION. THERE HE GOES ... WHIRLING AROUND AND AROUND IN A PARK, SPINNING VORTEX ...



WHAT IS IT, ANYWAY? I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE HIM BEFORE!

THAT IDIOT APPEALS AGENT HAS THINGS BOLIXED UP ... HE SENT ME BACK TO THE **WRONG PERIOD!**

UH ... LOOK, GUYS, I'VE GOT SOME IMPORTANT TIDINGS FOR YOUR COLONEL. I'VE GOT TO SEE HIM ... **QUICK!**



WHAT ARE YOU... TRYING
TO TELL ME? OF **COURSE**
REINFORCEMENTS ARE
GOING TO COME. LIEUTENANT
FORREST... WAS
GIVEN THE JOB
OF GETTING
THROUGH... HE
WOULDN'T...
LET US
DOWN...

CAN'T YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR
THICK HEAD THAT FORREST **DID** LET
YOU DOWN? HE'LL **NEVER** BRING
REINFORCEMENTS... NOT WHEN
HE SURRENDERED LIKE A COWARD
AND IS LEADING THE GUERRILLAS
TOWARDS YOU AT
THIS VERY
MOMENT!

I WON'T...
BELIEVE
SUCH
SHAMEFUL
LIES. **GET**
OUT!

I TRIED TO
TELL YOU
... I TRIED.

LOOK AT THEM... ALL CONFIDENT AND
HOPEFUL OF BEING SAVED. AND THAT
OLD MAN AND HIS FAITH. WELL... I'M
NOT GOING TO LET THEM
DOWN!



THERE THEY COME... THE
GUERRILLAS! THE CHIPS
ARE DOWN NOW!

I NEVER COULD
STAND GUERRILLAS
ON ANY SIDE!

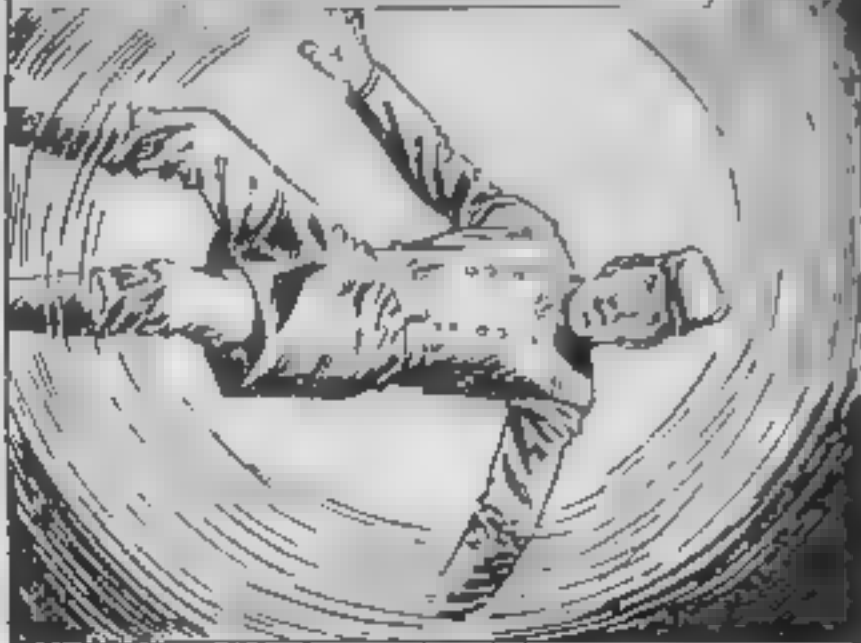
RATTA-
TAT-TAT-
TAT...



AND SO THE GUERRILLAS PERISHED AND THE
UNION DETACHMENT WAS SAVED BUT SOMEONE
ELSE DIED IN THE ENGAGEMENT. A MAN WHO'D
BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE BY THE UNKNOWN
... THE WRONG MAN ...



SO NOW YOU HAVE THE STORY OF WHAT HAD
HAPPENED TO CAPTAIN STEELE IN HIS
SECOND CHANCE. AS IT DID, WHAT
OF LIEUTENANT FORREST & HIS
SECOND CHANCE BEING MILITARY?



HOLY...
HANNAH!
W-WHAT...

OH, N-NO! I'M IN THE
WRONG PERIOD...
THAT STUPID APPEALS AGENT
MUST HAVE GOTTEN THINGS
CONFUSED!

NOW LISTEN, I
DON'T BELONG HERE
AND...

SAVE IT FOR LATER MASTER UP YONDER
THERE IS THE TOWN OF LAVANCHE AND THE
TANK COLUMN'S IN A HURRY TO CRASH IT AND
SAVE A LOT OF LIVES!

NO NO, YOU MUSTN'T
EVEN TRY! THE PLACE IS
DEFENDED BY MORE AND BIGGER
TANKS THAN YOU'VE GOT...
IT'S SURE DEATH IF
YOU MOVE IN!



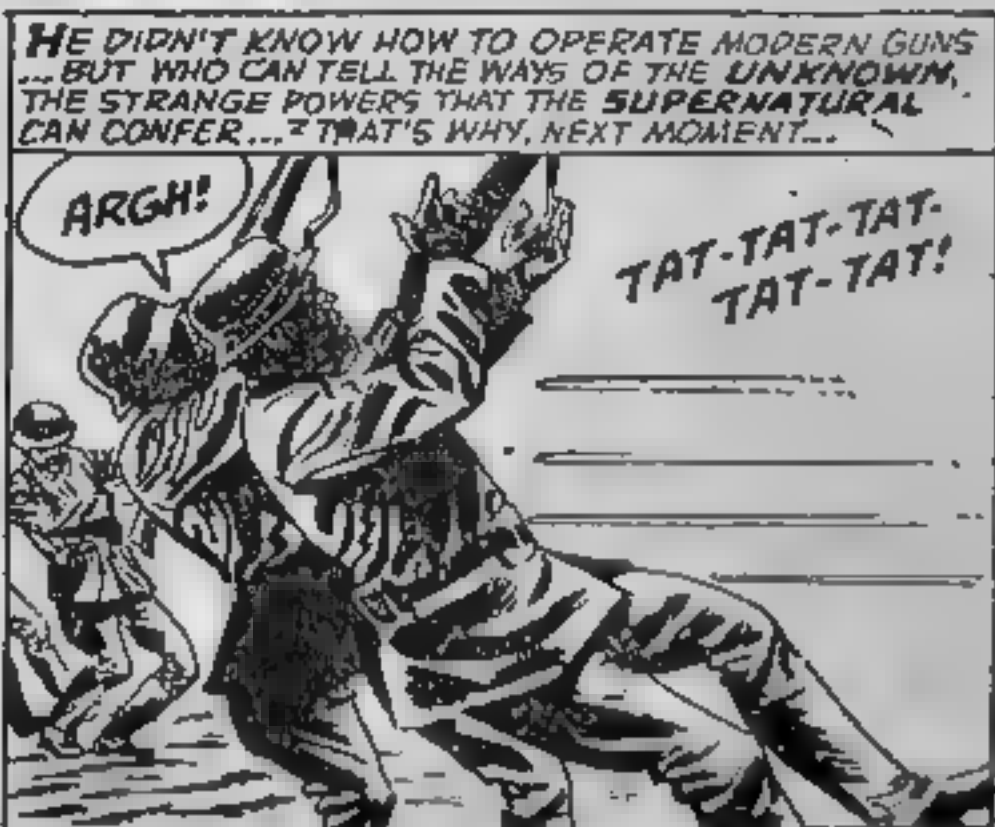
WELL... AREN'T
YOU TURNING
BACK? I'M
TELLING YOU
YOU HAVEN'T
GOT A
CHANCE...

SHADDUP!

TOM MORRISSEY
TO TANK SQUADRON.
LAVANCHE AHEAD.
FOLLOW ME IN!

YOU'RE CRAZY!
STOP THIS THING,
DO YOU HEAR...?

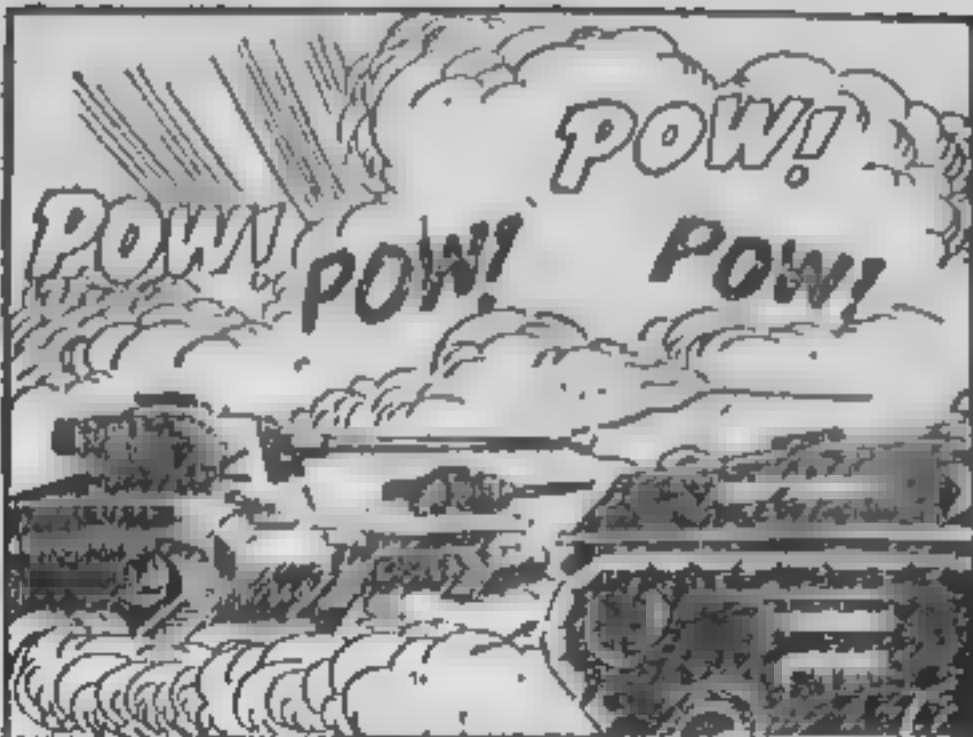




OLD MEN AND WOMEN... EVEN LITTLE CHILDREN... AND THEY'RE GOING TO BE SHOT? NO NO, IT CAN'T BE... IT MUSTN'T BE!

HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO OPERATE MODERN GUNS... BUT WHO CAN TELL THE WAYS OF THE UNKNOWN, THE STRANGE POWERS THAT THE SUPERNATURAL CAN CONFER...? THAT'S WHY, NEXT MOMENT...

NOW THE LEAD TANK LURCHED INTO
DRUNKEN MOTION... I FIRED THAT GUN...
AND NOW I'M OPERATING
THIS ODD VEHICLE I CAN'T
FIGURE WHERE THE ABILITY
CAME FROM... BUT THANK
THE LORD FOR IT!



IT WAS A TERRIFIC TANK BATTLE, PITTING
LIGHT SHERMANS AGAINST HEAVY PANZERS!
AND NOBODY KNEW THAT THE LEAD AMERICAN
TANK WAS BEING PILOTED BY A MAN WHO
HAD DIED IN THE CIVIL WAR A CENTURY
AGO... AND BEEN RESTORED TO LIFE!



THE NAZIS, ROUTED, RUMBLING OUT OF
LAVANCHE...

THAT GERMAN TANK
...IT'S TRYING TO LEAD ONE
OF OURS OFF THE ROAD AND
INTO THE MINE FIELD. I'VE GOT
TO STOP IT!



THE NAZI KNOWS HIS WAY THROUGH THE
MINE FIELD, BUT THE AMERICAN TANK
DOESN'T! IT'S GOING TO BE LED
RIGHT FOR THE MINE THAT GOT
STEELE! IF ONLY I CAN GET
JUST A LITTLE MORE SPEED
OUT OF THIS THING...



JUST IN TIME,
HE OVERTOOK
THE DOOMED
YANKEE
VEHICLE...

THERE! I...I
KNOCKED IT OFF
COURSE... CLEAR
OF THE MINE...



BUT IN THE PROCESS... HE RAN OVER THE MINE HIMSELF!



AND THIS TIME, IT WAS A DIFFERENT HAND THAT PROJECTED FROM THE TANK... THE DEAD HAND OF LIEUTENANT FORREST!



THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED THAT WE SEE TWO SOLDIERS ON THEIR WAY UP TO THE UNKNOWN TOGETHER... TO BE JUDGED ONCE MORE...



AND THIS TIME, THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT...



AND DOWN FAR BELOW, PEOPLE NOTICED SOMETHING STRANGE...

HUH? DIDN'T THERE USED TO BE TWO GRAVES HERE, IN THIS UNHALLOWED GROUND?

SAY, YOU'RE RIGHT. AND NOW IT LOOKS AS IF THERE NEVER WERE ANY!



BUT WITHIN THE CEMETERY ITSELF, THERE HAD MAGICALLY APPEARED GRAVES WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN THERE BEFORE... TWO OF THEM...

I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY EVER GOT HERE, BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT HERE THEY'LL STAY... FOREVER!



THEIR SECOND CHANCE... AND IT PAID OFF!

THE END

I FOUND THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE!

IT IS THE STILL OF NIGHT AND THE CITY SLEEPS
...ALL EXCEPT ONE MAN...



ONCE I STEAL THE CROWN JEWELS,
I'LL BE RICH! THEN THE DOLLS'LL
GO FOR ME IN SPITE OF MY UGLY
FACE! THEY'LL SWOON OVER ME
LIKE I WAS THE HANDSOMEST
GUY IN THE WORLD!



AND THE BEST PART IS
THE COPS'LL NEVER CATCH
ME! BECAUSE AFTER I
ROB THOSE JEWELS, I'M
GONNA GO WHERE THEY
CAN'T FOLLOW ME! I'M
GONNA GO BACK INTO
TIME!



I HAD BEEN WORKING ON MY TIME MACHINE FOR OVER A YEAR AND IT WAS ALMOST FINISHED! A FEW MORE WEEKS AND I'D BE ABLE TO TRAVEL INTO THE PAST!



I HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND YET WHERE I'LL HIDE OUT AFTER I SNATCH THE JEWELS! I COULD GO BACK TO THE ROMAN EMPIRE!

THE BABES IN THOSE DAYS WERE REAL LOOKERS! AND THEY SURE WENT FOR GUYS WITH DOUGH! I'D HAVE A BALL IF I WENT BACK THERE!



YOU DAMES REALLY GO FOR ME-- EVEN THOUGH I'M UGLY!

OH, SIRE, YOU ARE NOT UGLY-- YOUR MONEY MAKES YOU HANDSOME!

IT MAKES YOU THE HANDSOMEST ROMAN OF THEM ALL!



THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE TO HEAR DAMES TALK! KEEP IT UP!

YES, OH, KIND AND NOBLE SIRE!

YOU ARE THE DESIRE OF EVERY WOMAN'S HEART, OH WEALTHY ONE!



YEAH, THE ROMAN EMPIRE WOULD BE REAL NICE FOR ME, BUT THERE WERE OTHER GOOD TIMES IN HISTORY... LIKE DOWN SOUTH BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR! I CAN JUST IMAGINE ME MAKIN' A HIT WITH THOSE GORGEOUS SOUTHERN BELLES...



OH, HARRY STUBBS-- YOU ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT THE CLEVEREST, MOST WONDERFUL MAN I EVER DID MEET!

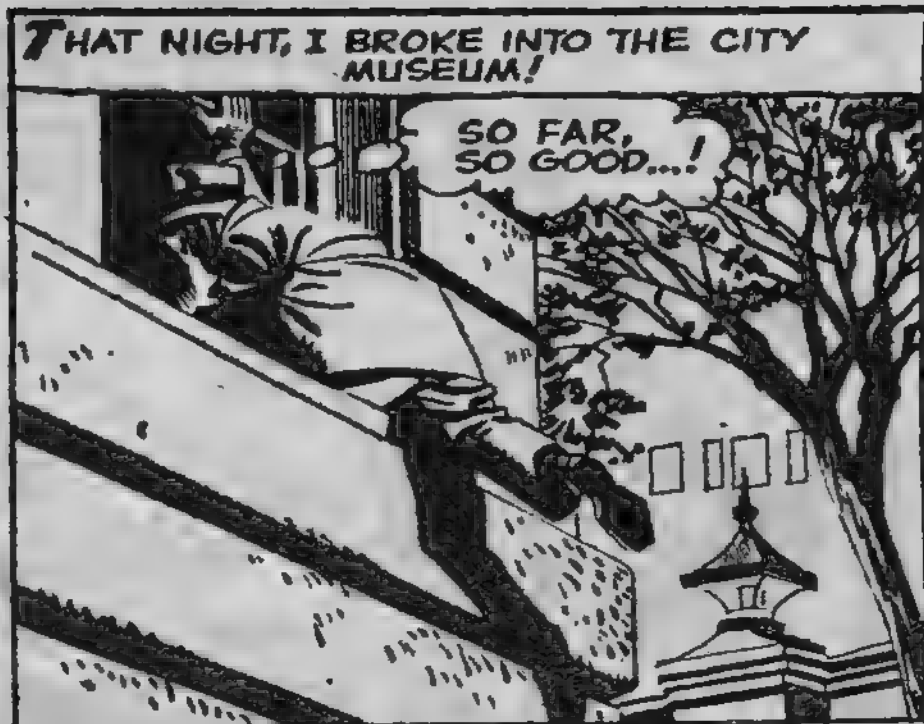
THEN YOU LIKE ME, HUH?!

LIKE YOU? WE LOVE YOU-- YOU AND YOUR BEAUTIFUL MONEY!



YEAH, MONEY'S THE THING THAT COUNTS! AND AS SOON AS I FINISH THIS TIME MACHINE, I'M GONNA GET ALL THE DOUGH I'LL EVER NEED! I'M GONNA GET IT FROM STEALING AND SELLING THE CROWN JEWELS!







BUT WHEN IT WAS OVER... WHEN THE MACHINE STOPPED AND I CAME TO AGAIN...

THE DATE-- IT'S STILL 1965! MY MACHINE DIDN'T WORK! IT DIDN'T TAKE ME BACK INTO TIME!

SEPT.
10
1965

FOR A FEW SECONDS I JUST STOOD THERE, TOO DUMBFOUNDED TO MOVE, THEN...

I MIGHT AS WELL GO OUT AND FACE THE MUSIC! I'M STILL IN MY ROOM! THE COPS MUST STILL BE WAITING TO ARREST ME! I'M HEADED FOR A STRETCH IN PRISON AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN AVOID IT!

BUT WHEN I OPENED THE CABINET DOOR...

JUMPIN' CATFISH-- WHAT'VE I DONE?!!

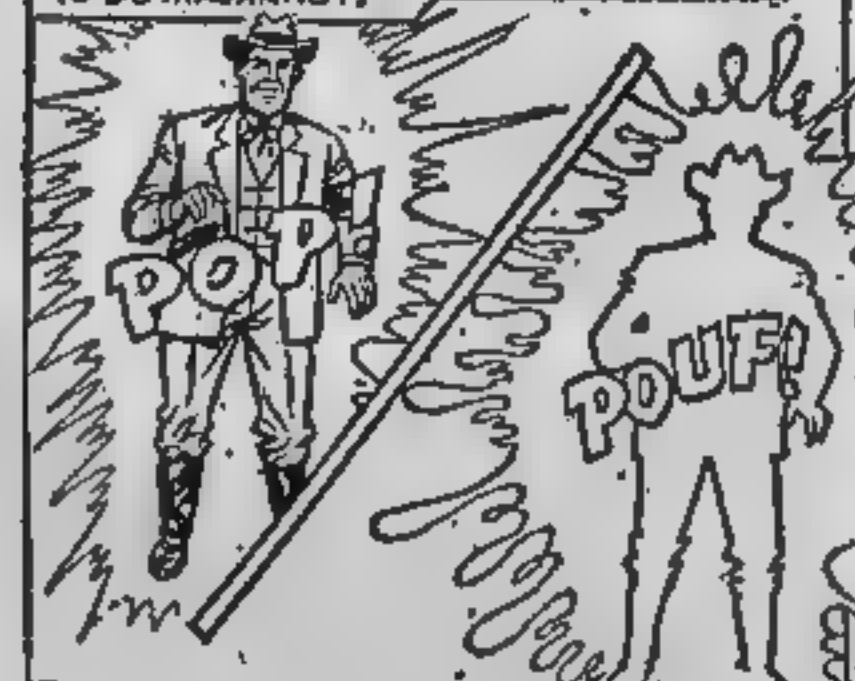
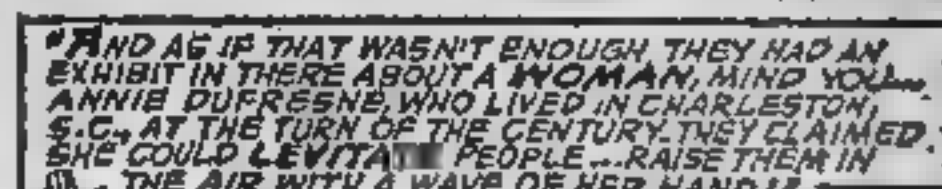
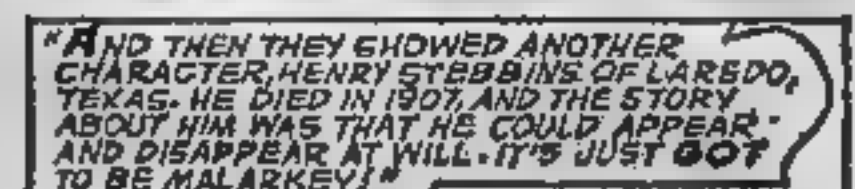
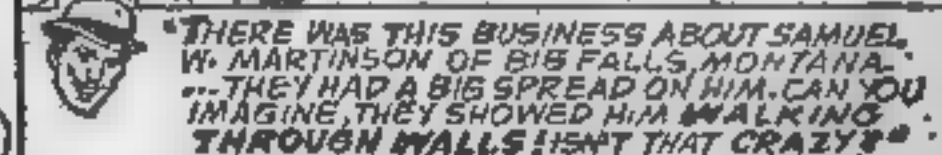
MY MACHINE KEPT ME IN THE PRESENT-- BUT IT TOOK ME TO ANOTHER WORLD! I'M IN ANOTHER DIMENSION!

EVERYTHING HERE IS SO STRANGE-- SO UGLY! IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE! I'D RATHER BE IN PRISON!

AND TILL THIS VERY MOMENT, I'VE BEEN IN THIS STRANGE DIMENSION... WHERE NO ONE UNDERSTANDS ME, WHERE MY JEWELS ARE WORTHLESS, WHERE MY LONELINESS IS UNBEARABLE....

I WANTED MONEY, POWER, BEAUTIFUL DAMES! WELL, ALL I WANT NOW IS TO FIX THIS MACHINE SO I CAN GO BACK TO MY OWN WORLD! I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! IF I EVER GET BACK, I'LL NEVER DO ANOTHER DISHONEST THING AS LONG AS I LIVE!

THE
END





"THEN THERE WAS ALEXANDER MARONI OF LIEGE, BELGIUM. THEY HAD THIS PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM TURNING HIMSELF INTO AN ANIMAL, NO LESS... HAW! BOY, WHAT SOME FOLKS WILL BELIEVE!"



"THINK I'M KIDDING YOU? THEY EVEN FEATURED SOME JASPER BY THE NAME OF LEO FLAHERTY WHO LIVED IN INDIANAPOLIS AND DIED THERE IN 1911. WELL, THEY HAD A BIG SPREAD OF HIM WALKING THROUGH FIRE! CAN YOU BEAT IT FOLKS BEING HOODWINKED BY ALL THAT SUPERNATURAL BUSHWANT?"



YOU MAY BE RIGHT... BUT I'VE READ SO MUCH ABOUT THE SUPERNATURAL IN "GASP" THAT NEW AMAZING STORY COMIC, THAT... WELL, I'D LIKE TO SEE SOME EVIDENCES OF IT MYSELF!

WELL YOU WON'T FIND IT BACK IN THAT CRAZY MUSEUM. BUT IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE REAL SUPERNATURAL... UH... MIND HOLDING MY HAT?



G-GREAT HEAVENS! YOU'VE G-GOT... HORNS!

YOU A N'T SEEN NOTH N' YET! REMEMBER MY MENTIONING THAT I WAS HERE TO DRUM UP NEW BUSINESS FOR MY ORGAN ZAT ON? YESS R, I'M HERE TO RECRUIT PROSPECTS...



AND YOU'RE THE BEST ONE I'VE SEEN ALL DAY! GO LET'S GET GOING!

NO! NO! YEEE-ANHH!



NEXT STOP HADES! HA-HA!

THE END.

T.H.U.N.D.E.R.
AGENT

LIGHTNING

"the WEB TIGHTENS"

OUR STORY OPENS
IN A FAR FROM
DESERTED GHOST
TOWN, SOMEWHERE
IN NORTHERN
ARIZONA, WHERE
A LIFE AND DEATH
STRUGGLE IS NOW
IN PROGRESS....

THEY'VE FOUND ME
AGAIN... THIS PLACE
IS LITERALLY CRAWLING
WITH S.P.I.D.E.R. AGENTS!



THEY'RE BOUND AND DE-
TERMINED NOT TO LET ME
REACH OUR PHOENIX BASE
AND RADIO INFORMATION
ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES
HERE TO T.H.U.N.D.E.R.
HEADQUARTERS!

THE ROCK, THROWN WITH TREMENDOUS SPEED, BECOMES
A DEADLY MISSILE...

BUT IF THEY THINK A
SIMPLE "SPIDER ROADSTER"
CAN STOP THE SWIFT AGENT...
THIS SHOULD CHANGE
THEIR MINDS!

CRASH!

UH-OH! HERE COMES THE ROADSTER'S
SECOND COUSIN...THE LASER TANKS!
TWO OF THEM TO BE EXACT!



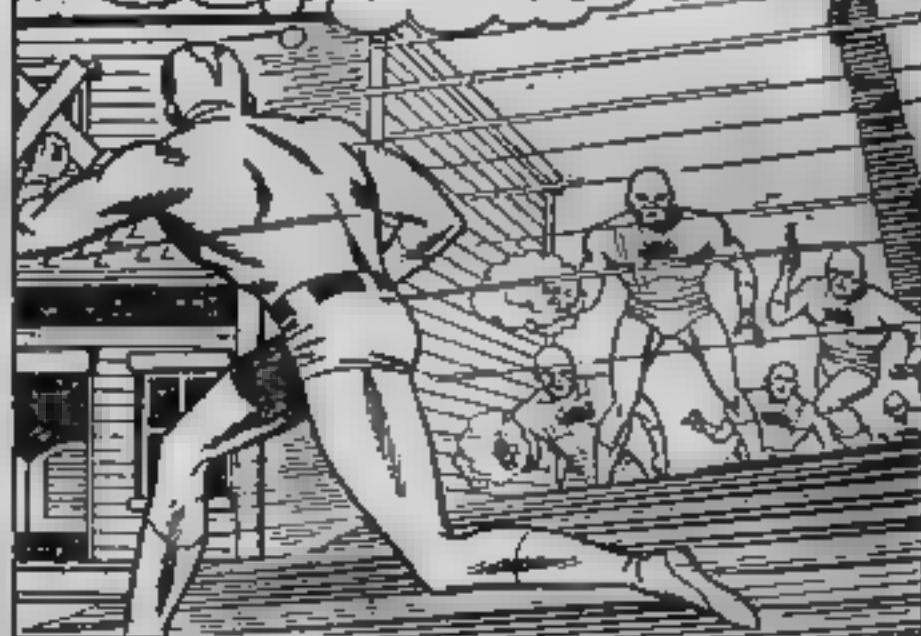
THAT WAS CLOSE.... TOO
CLOSE I LOOKS LIKE
THERE'S ONLY ONE
THING TO DO...



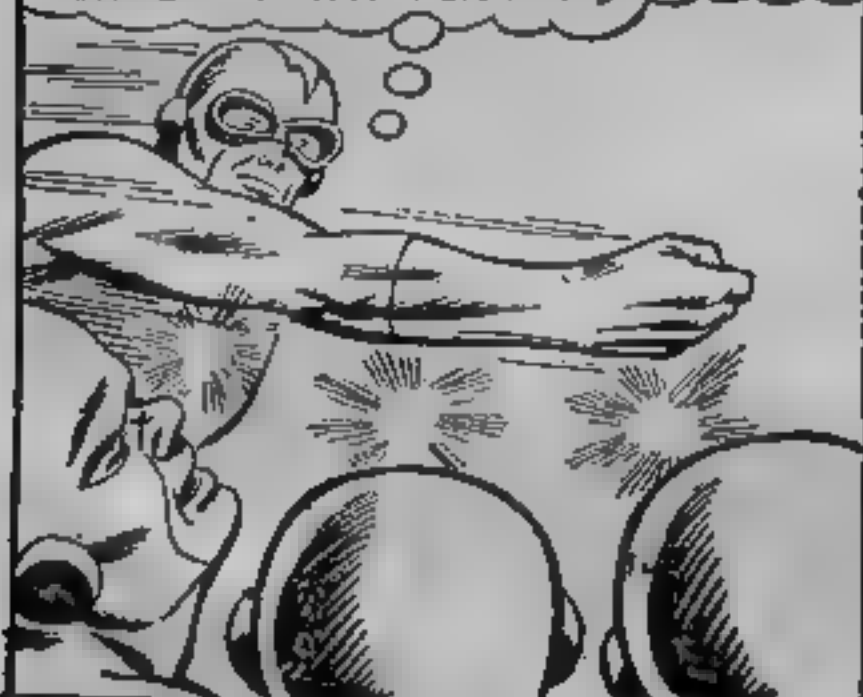
OBTAINING THE PROPER MOMENTUM,
LIGHTNING HITS THE TANKS WITH
ENOUGH FORCE TO BEND STEEL...



HMPH! THEY MUST HAVE RUN OUT OF
SUPER-WEAPONS! NOW WE'RE DOWN
TO GOOD OL' FASHIONED FOOT-
SOLDERS!

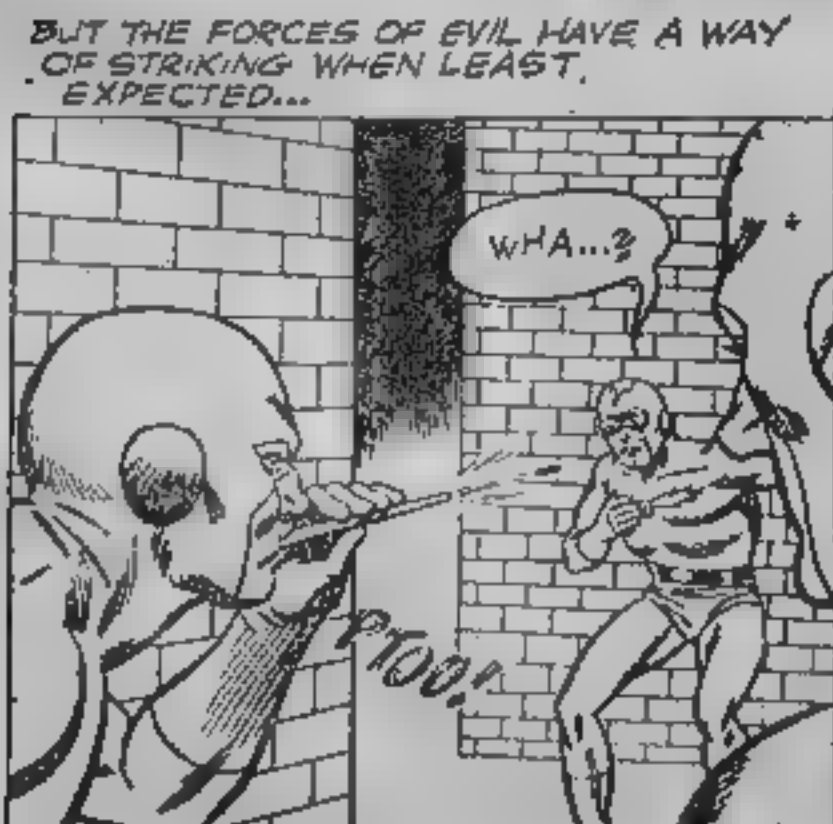


...WHICH MEANS I'LL USE GOOD OL'
FASHIONED FLEET-FOOTED FISTICUFFS...
WITH ONE PUNCH FOR ALL!



AND NOW THAT I'VE BUILT UP THIS
MOMENTUM, GLESS I MIGHT AS
WELL JUST KEEP GOING!





BUT THEN, BEFORE THE SWIFT AGENT CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE HE IS CAUGHT BY THE CONCUSSION OF THE EXPLOSIVE PELLET...



AND...



HAH, IT'S KINDA SAD! THE POOR GUY! HE HAD NO IDEA THAT WE'VE KNOWN THE WHEREABOUTS OF T.H.U.N.D.E.R. S PHOENIX BASE FOR SOME TIME NOW!

YEAH... ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS SURROUND THE BASE FROM A SAFE DISTANCE! WE KNEW HE'D SHOW UP SOONER OR LATER... HE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE!



OH, WELL... C'MON! WE'D BETTER HEAD BACK TO THE BASE! THEY PROBABLY HAVE OTHER ASSIGNMENTS FOR US!

YEH, THEY MOST LIKELY DO! THEY'VE REALLY PUT ON THE BIG PUSH... EVER SINCE WE STARTED FIGHTING THE UNDER



BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN AN EXPLOSIVE PELLET TO FINISH A T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENT...

...OOOO WHERE... CALM DOWN! EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE BACK AT THE PHOENIX BASE!



THE PHOENIX BASE? OH YEAH... SO I AM! BUT WHAT HAPPENED??

"WHAT HAPPENED"? THAT'S WHAT WE WERE GOING TO ASK YOU!!



YOU MEAN... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED??

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I MEAN... IN FACT... I CAN'T REMEMBER... WHAT I'M DOING HERE AT YOUR BASE?

UH, OH! SOUNDS LIKE PARTIAL AMNESIA!



I'D BETTER INFORM HEADQUARTERS OF THIS IMMEDIATELY! IT'S CERTAINLY SLOWING UP OUR PLANS!... I'M SURE THAT LIGHTNING LOCATED THE HIDDEN S.R.I.D.E.R. BASE. WE WERE PLANNING ON MOVING IN ON THEM TONIGHT!



LATER, IN A COFFEE SHOP NEAR T.H.U.N.D.E.R. HQ....

C'MON, WEED! I'VE GOT TO KNOW! YOU WERE IN THE CHIEF'S OFFICE WHEN THE CALL CAME IN! HOW BADLY WAS GUY HURT?.... AND WHEN WILL HE BE ABLE TO COME BACK?

TAKE IT EASY, KITTEN! IT'S NOT SERIOUS! HE WAS LUCKY... JUST A FEW SUPER-FICIAL INJURIES....



...HE ALSO HAS PARTIAL AMNESIA BUT THE DOCTORS ARE SURE HE'LL BE OVER THAT IN ABOUT A WEEK! THEY'VE MOVED HIM TO THE PHOENIX GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT TO HIS PHYSICAL WOUNDS!... HE'LL PROBABLY STAY THERE UNTIL THE END OF THE ARIZONA ASSIGNMENT... THEN RETURN HERE...

HMM... PHOENIX GENERAL HOSPITAL... VERY INTERESTING!

THAT'S RIGHT! I WANT TO TALK TO THE HEAD MAN!... I'M SURE HE'LL SPEAK TO ME! IT CONCERNS A TOP T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENT!



AND AT S.R.I.D.E.R.'S "GHOST TOWN" BASE...

I JUST SPOKE TO THE HEAD MAN AND LEARNED THAT LIGHTNING IS STILL ALIVE!

WHA... HOW COULD HE BE?

YEH! IF HE'S ALIVE THEN WHY HASN'T T.H.U.N.D.E.R. ATTACKED US??

BECAUSE AT THE MOMENT HE HAS AMNESIA!... THEY'RE TRYING TO CURE HIM, AND IT'S OUR JOB TO REACH HIM BEFORE THEY SUCCEED!



THAT NIGHT DURING HOSPITAL
VISITING HOURS



NOW
WHAT
??

FIRST WE FIND HIS ROOM.....
THAT'LL BE THE EASY PART,
SINCE IT'LL BE THE ONLY
ROOM WITH GUARDS OUTSIDE
IT... AND REMEMBER... WE'RE TO
HANDLE THE GUARDS... THAT'S ALL!...
THE OTHERS WILL TAKE CARE OF
LIGHTNING!



THERE THEY ARE.... NOW
TRY TO ACT NONCHALANT
WHILE WE WALK PAST THEM...
WE DON'T WANT TO GIVE
AWAY THE WHOLE BIT...



WHILE PASSING BY THE GUARDS, ONE OF
THE S.P.I.D.E.R. AGENTS SQUEEZES
A HIDDEN VIAL...



WHA...?

GAS... QUICK...
(COFF)... STOP THOSE
MEN... USE YOUR
GUN...



BUT BEFORE THE GUARDS CAN MAKE
ANOTHER MOVE, THE DEADLY
VAPOR TAKES EFFECT....



BUT AS THE GUARDS STRIKE THE FLOOR, AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT COMES TO PASS...

WHAT WAS THAT & COULD SOMETHING HAVE HAPPENED TO THE GUARDS & BETTER GET UP AND SEE...



LEGS WOBBLY, BUT... I MUST FIND OUT... FIRST I'LL NEED MY SPEED SUIT...



AND ATOP THE BUILDING NEXT DOOR...

ALL RIGHT... IT'S TIME! NOW REMEMBER... WE GO IN, GRAB LIGHTNING AND COME BACK OUT... AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!!!

RIGHT!



THEIR JET PACKS FLARE, AS THE AERIAL AGENTS STREAK TOWARD THEIR DESTINATION...



THEIR ARMORED SUITS PROTECT THEM AS THEY MAKE THEIR SPECTACULAR ENTRANCE...



ONLY TO FIND...

HUN?

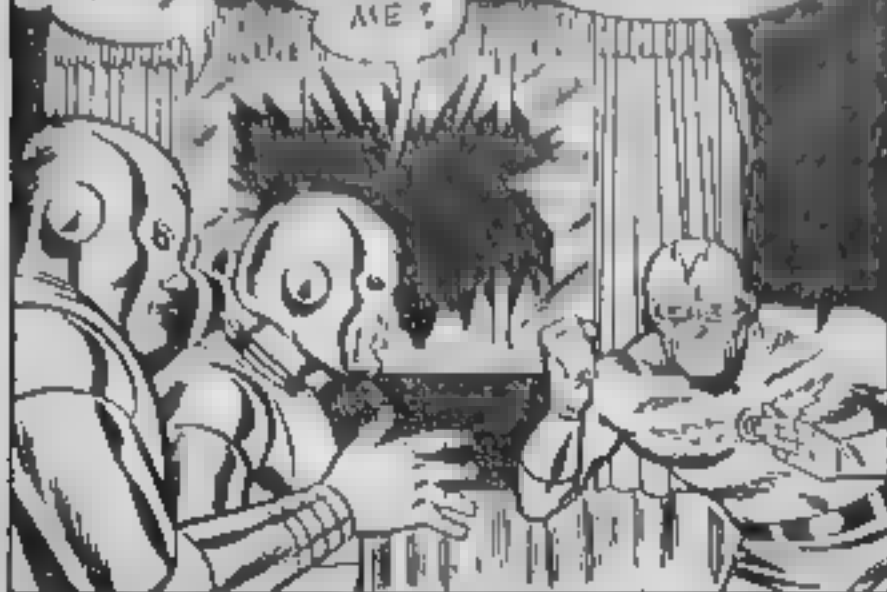


MOMENTARILY STUNNED, THE OPPONENTS
STAND STILL...

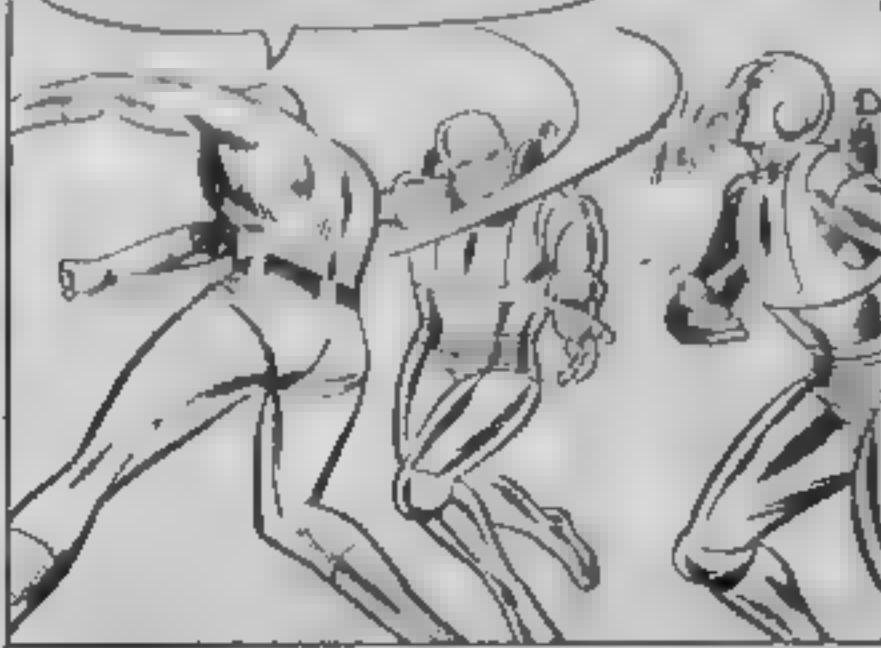
I THOUGHT
YOU SAID HE
WAS LAD
UP!

THAT'S
WHAT
I TRY
TO DO
ME!

SURE... THAT'S
WHAT I'G IS
ALL ABOUT,
HUH?



GETTING RID OF THE GUARDS,
THEN TAKING ME OUT THE BACK
WAY. BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T
EXPECT ME TO BE THIS WELL
PREPARED FOR YOU..



BUT, LIKE THEY
SAY, THAT'S THE
WAY THE ARMOR
DENTS!

ONLY ONE PROBLEM...
THEIR ARMOR **ISN'T**
DENTING... MY INJURIES
HAVE WEAKENED MY
STRENGTH! EVEN
WITH MY INDUCER
ON, I'M NOT DO-
ING TOO WELL!



IV'E STILL GOT MY SPEED... PART OF IT
ANYWAY... ENOUGH TO DODGE THE R
DEADLY ARMORED FISTS.. BUT HOW
LONG CAN I KEEP THIS UP IN MY
CONDITION?



AND AT THAT SELF-SAME MOMENT...

HEY! WHAT'S
GOING.....GOOD
GRIEF! DOCTOR!
LOOK!

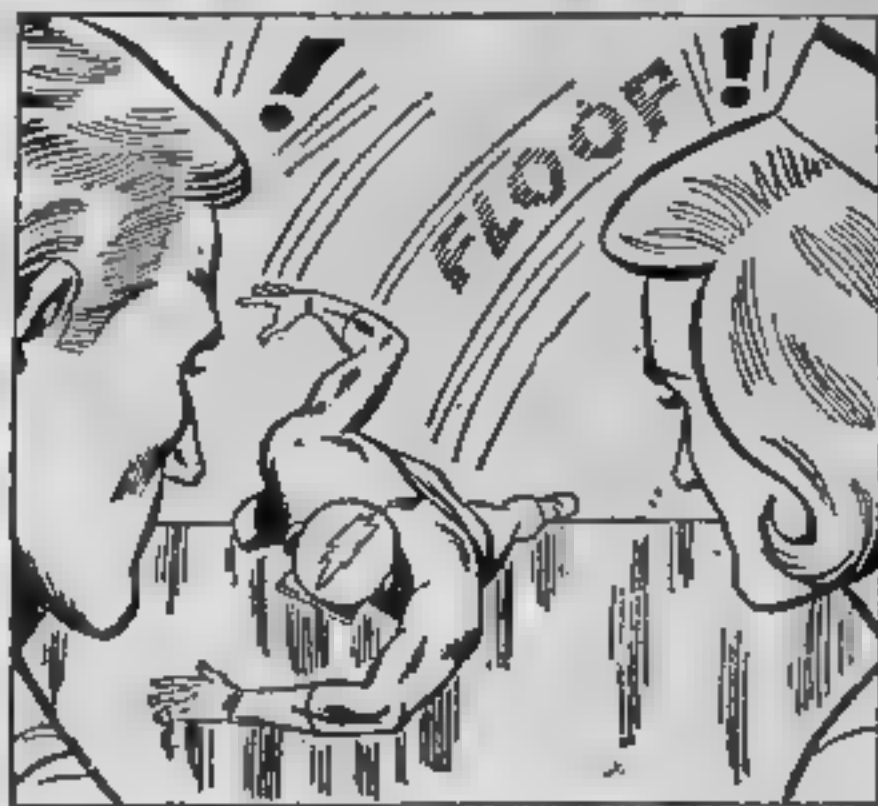
HUH?

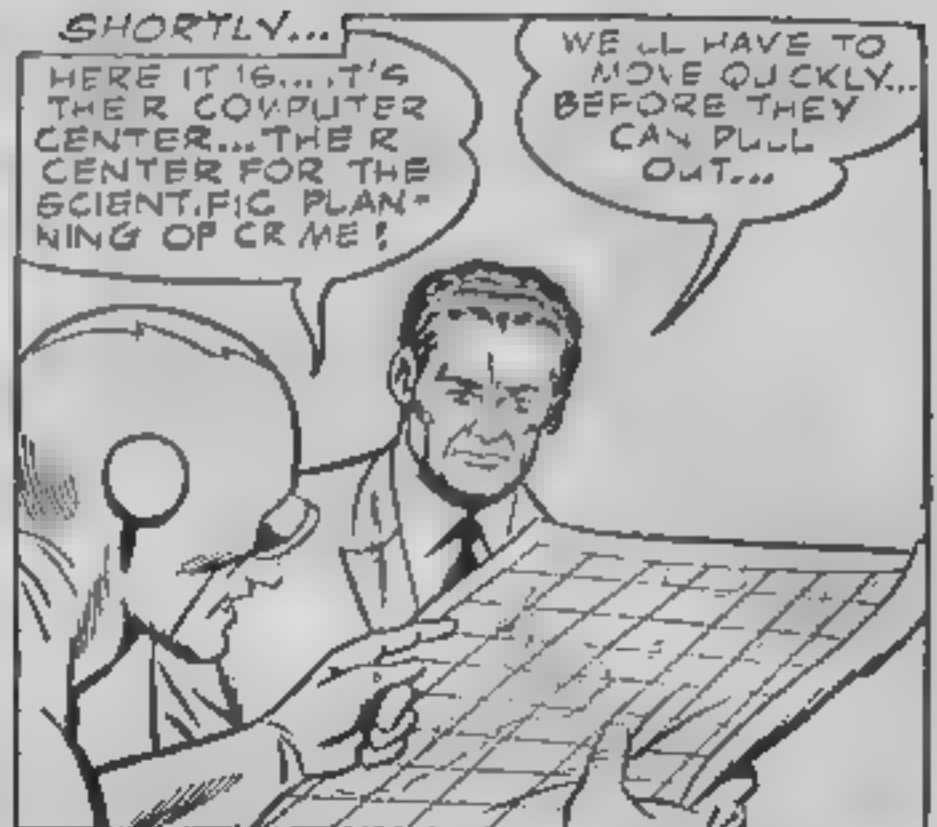
POW
THUD



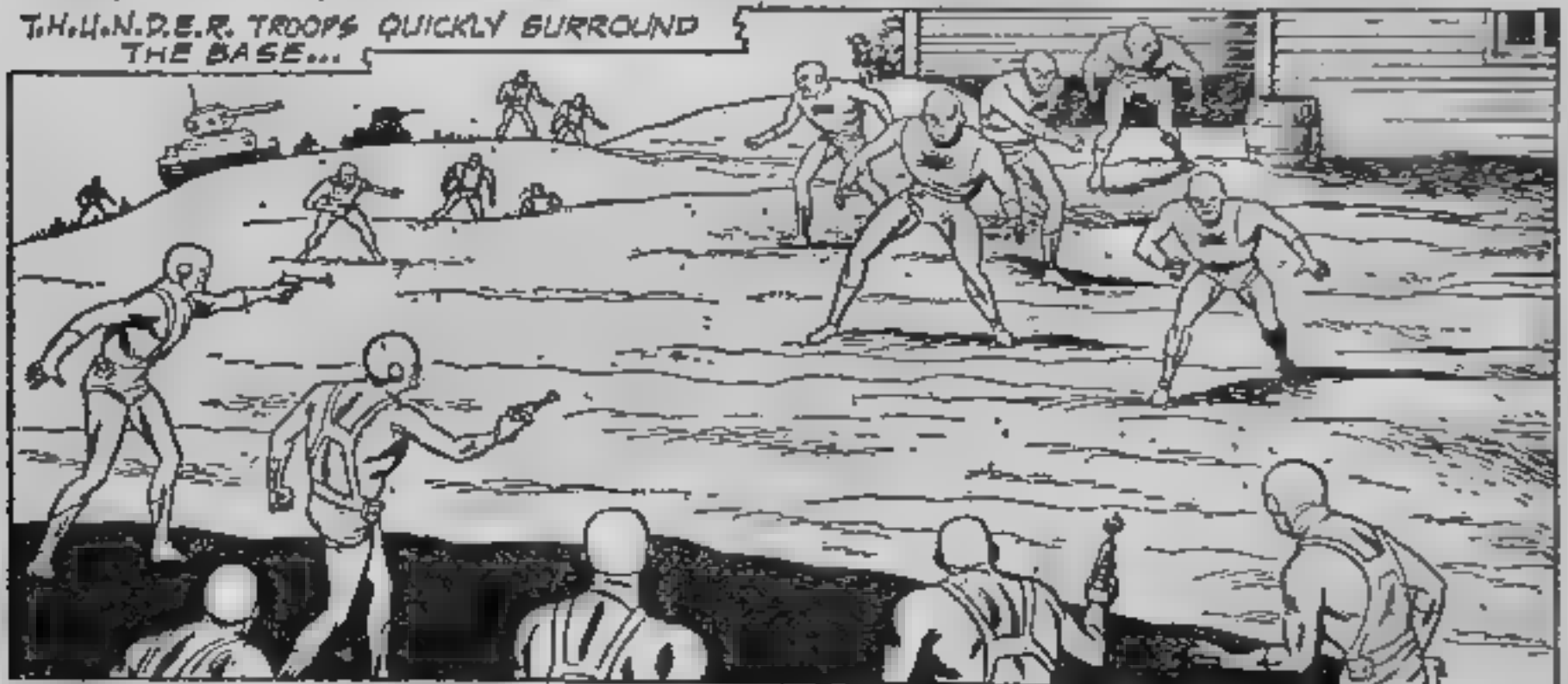
STARTING TO GET WOOLY! MUST PUT
EVERYTHING I'VE GOT INTO THE FIGHT
AND FINISH IT.... **NOW!**.... AH,
CAUGHT THEM BOTH!







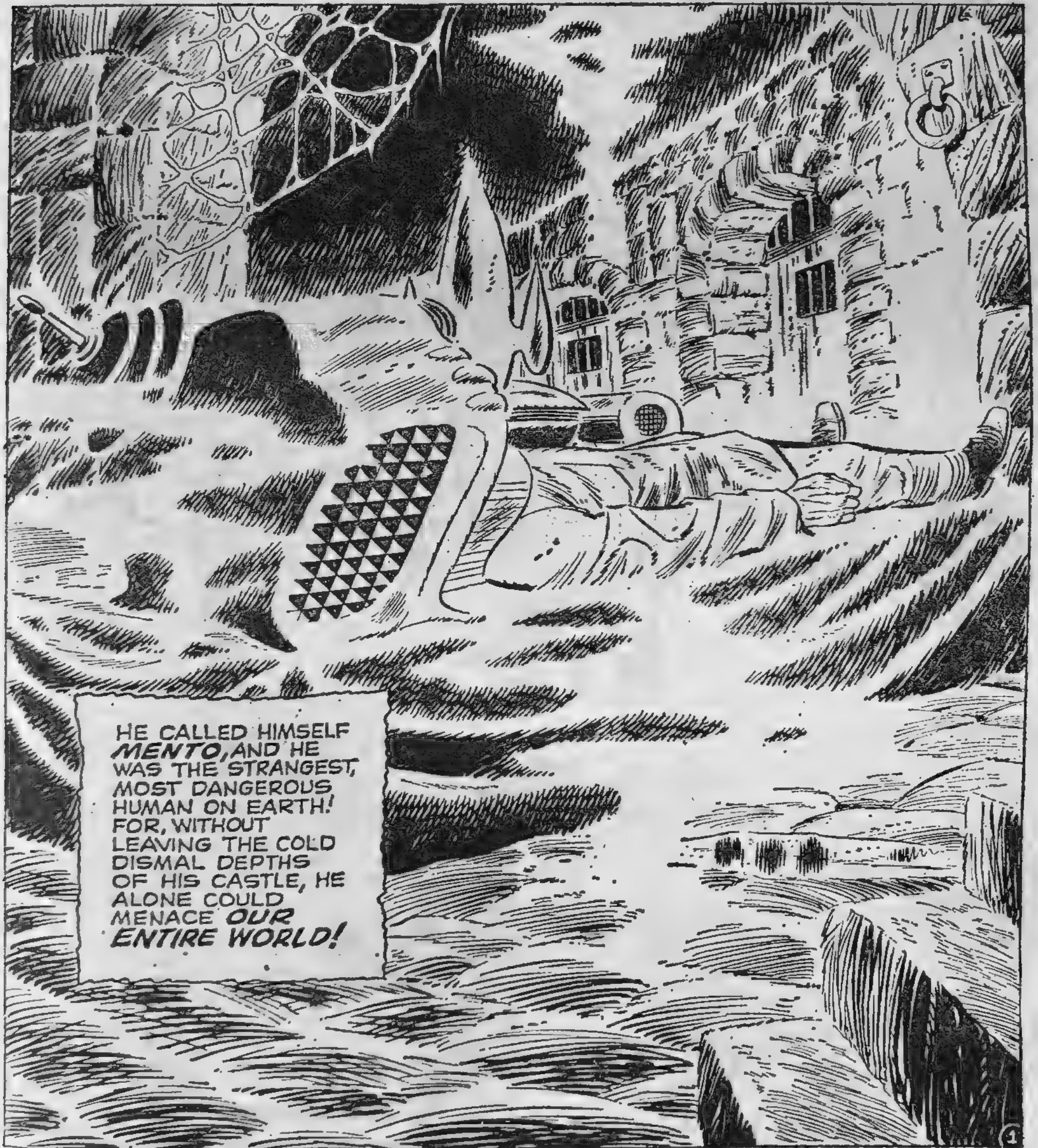
T.H.U.N.D.E.R. TROOPS QUICKLY SURROUND THE BASE...



AND BEHIND THE LINES...



THE FANTASTIC MENACE OF MENTO^{the} MIGHTY



HE CALLED HIMSELF
MENTO, AND HE
WAS THE STRANGEST,
MOST DANGEROUS
HUMAN ON EARTH!
FOR, WITHOUT
LEAVING THE COLD
DISMAL DEPTHS
OF HIS CASTLE, HE
ALONE COULD
MENACE **OUR**
ENTIRE WORLD!

SOMETIMES THE GREATEST THINGS ARE BORN OF TRIVIAL INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS! I, OF ALL MEN KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE! FOR ONE FATEFUL DAY, WHILE I SAT ALONE IN AN EXCLUSIVE RESTAURANT...

I CONTINUED TO STARE FOR SEVERAL SECONDS, WISHING SHE WOULD TURN AROUND AND SATISFY MY CURIOSITY! FINALLY IT HAPPENED... SHE DID TURN...AS THOUGH IN ANSWER TO MY THOUGHTS!



THAT WOMAN SITTING BY HERSELF... I WISH SHE'D TURN AROUND! SO I COULD SEE HOW ATTRACTIVE SHE IS!



WHEN I LEFT THE RESTAURANT, MY PROFESSIONAL INSTINCT AS ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST RENOWNED SCIENTISTS CAUSED ME TO WONDER ABOUT WHAT HAD JUST OCCURED...

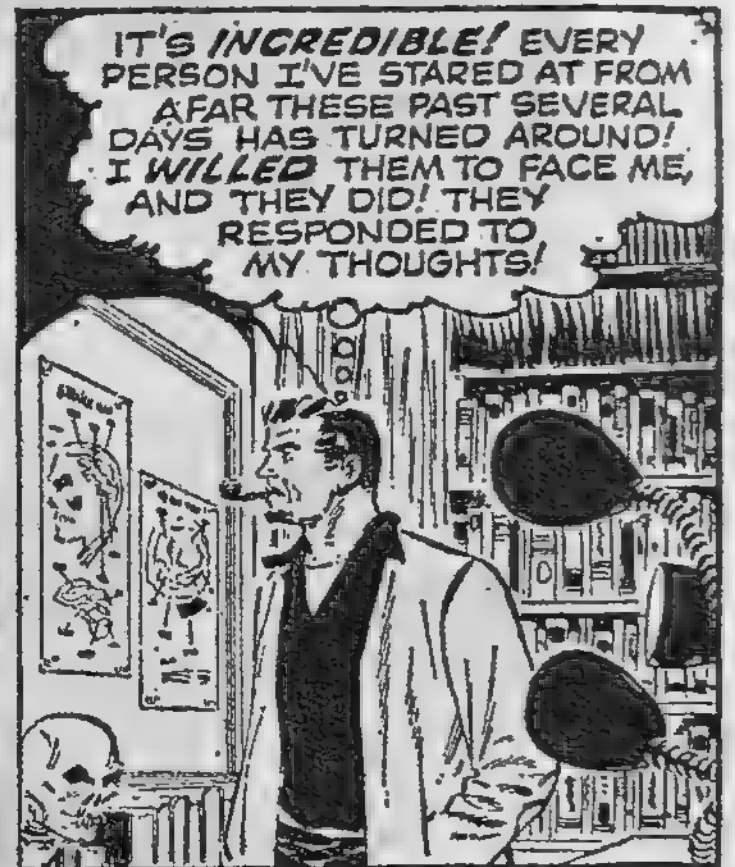


STRANGE, THE WAY THAT WOMAN TURNED AROUND... IT WAS AS THO' MY THINKING ABOUT HER, MY WANTING TO SEE HER FACE, MADE HER TURN AROUND!

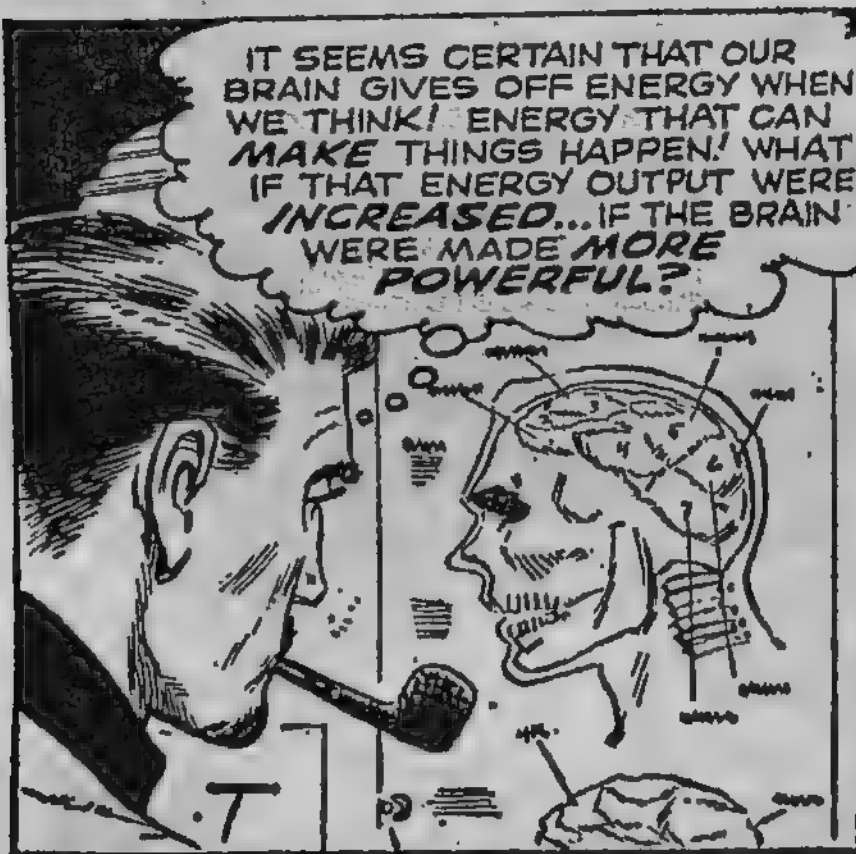


I WONDER IF THAT WOULD WORK WITH OTHER PEOPLE... IF THEY WOULD ALSO TURN AROUND? I'M GOING TO FIND OUT! I'M GOING TO EXPERIMENT AGAIN!

ONE WEEK LATER...



IT'S INCREDIBLE! EVERY PERSON I'VE STARED AT FROM AFAR THESE PAST SEVERAL DAYS HAS TURNED AROUND! I WILLED THEM TO FACE ME, AND THEY DID! THEY RESPONDED TO MY THOUGHTS!



IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT OUR BRAIN GIVES OFF ENERGY WHEN WE THINK! ENERGY THAT CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN! WHAT IF THAT ENERGY OUTPUT WERE INCREASED... IF THE BRAIN WERE MADE MORE POWERFUL?

THAT WAS THE SEED OF THE THEORY WHICH GREW AND GREW INSIDE ME UNTIL I WAS OBSESSED WITH IT...



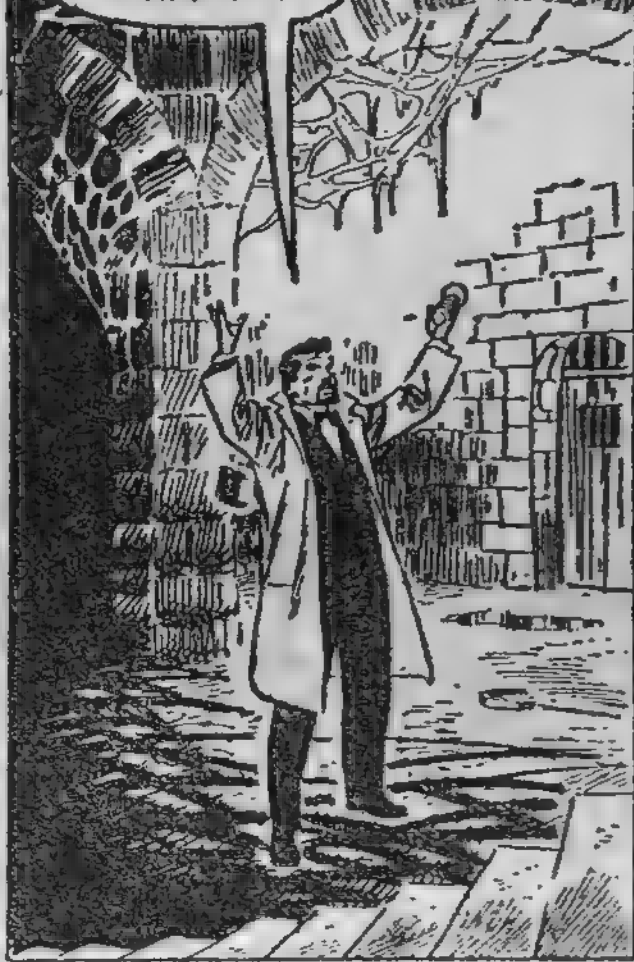
I'M GOING TO DO IT! I'M GOING TO INCREASE THE POWER OF MY BRAIN, UNTIL IT GIVES OFF A THOUSAND TIMES MORE ENERGY THAN NOW! I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE ANYTHING IN THE WORLD HAPPEN THEN!

FORTUNATELY, I WAS NOT ONLY A LEARNED SCIENTIST, BUT ALSO A **WEALTHY** ONE! SO WEALTHY THAT I COULD AFFORD TO GIVE UP ALL MY OTHER WORK AND MOVE TO A LONELY, ABANDONED CASTLE...



I SELECTED THE CASTLE **DUNGEON** AS THE SITE FOR MY PLAN...

IN THIS BLEAK CHAMBER I SHALL CREATE A SCIENTIFIC MIRACLE! I SHALL DEFY THE LAWS OF NATURE AND MAN, TO BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL MORTAL ON EARTH!



AND THEN IT BEGAN...THE LONG DIFFICULT MONTHS OF TOIL...

HAVE TO BE CAREFUL...**VERY CAREFUL!** THE SLIGHTEST LITTLE MISTAKE, AND I COULD BE **ELECTROCUTED!**



FINALLY, MY MACHINE WAS FINISHED! **I WAS READY!**



I CAN SCARCELY WAIT TO TRY IT OUT! IT'S GOING TO **WORK!** I KNOW IT WILL!

BUT WHEN I ATTACHED THE APPARATUS AND STARTED THE MACHINE, I MADE AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY...



IT'S WORKING... IT'S GENERATING THE POWER OF MY BRAIN... BUT SO **SLOWLY** THAT IT WILL BE YEARS BEFORE THERE'S ANY **REAL DIFFERENCE!**

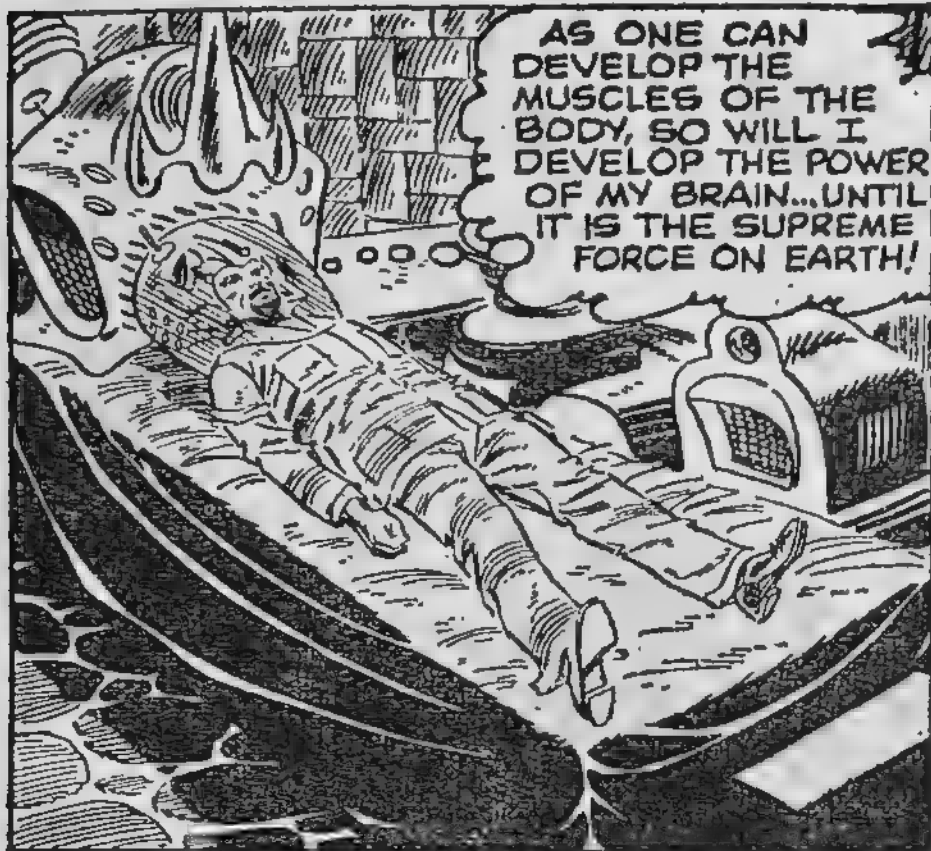
I WENT BACK TO WORK ON THE MACHINE! I TRIED TO FIX IT SO THE GENERATING WOULD SPEED UP, BUT IT WAS NO USE! NO MATTER **HOW** I TRIED, I COULDN'T SUCCEED...

THERE'S ONLY **ONE** THING FOR ME TO DO...TO USE THE MACHINE **AS IT IS!** I DON'T CARE **HOW LONG** IT TAKES! I'M GOING THRU WITH MY PLAN!



AND SO BEGAN THE MOST FANTASTIC PROJECT
IN THE HISTORY OF MENTAL SCIENCE...

BUT FOR MY PLAN TO BE FEASIBLE, I NEEDED THE
AID OF ONE OTHER PERSON...



AS ONE CAN
DEVELOP THE
MUSCLES OF THE
BODY, SO WILL I
DEVELOP THE POWER
OF MY BRAIN...UNTIL
IT IS THE SUPREME
FORCE ON EARTH!



THEN YOU WILL
CHECK ME PERIODICALLY,
DOCTOR? YOU WILL FEED
ME INTRAVENOUSLY
WITHOUT FAIL IN THE
MONTHS TO
COME!

YES! I THINK
YOU'RE MAD TO GO
THRU WITH THIS... BUT
IF I DON'T TAKE CARE
OF YOU, YOU'LL SOON
DIE... AND AS A
DOCTOR I CAN'T
LET THAT
HAPPEN!

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS WAIT...AND WAIT I DID!
FOR MONTHS I LAY PERFECTLY STILL, WHILE
MY BRAIN WAS BOMBARDED BY GENERATING
IMPULSES! FINALLY I FELT I WAS READY
FOR MY FIRST TEST...

AND SCARCELY HAD I THOUGHT, WHEN I HEARD THE
HEAVY SOUND OF METAL HITTING ON STONE STEPS...



THE SUIT OF
ARMOR THAT
STANDS IN THE
CORRIDOR ABOVE
THE DUNGEON...
I WANT IT TO
COME DOWN
HERE... DOWN
TO THE
DUNGEON!



I WANT THE ARMOR
TO COME DOWN HERE...
WALKING ON ITS HEAD...
MOVING ON ITS
HEAD...



I'VE DONE
IT! I'VE
OVERCOME
THE LAWS
OF NATURE
ITSELF!

I'VE WILLED AN
INANIMATE OBJECT
INTO MOVING...INTO
OBEYING MY
COMMAND!

CLANK!
CLANK!
CLANK!

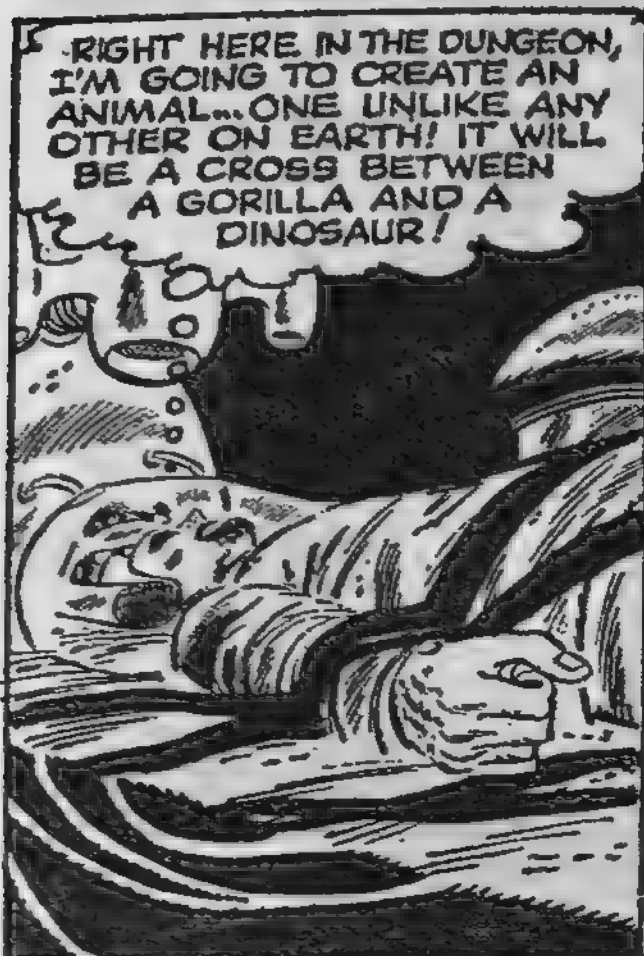
THIS WAS MY FIRST TRIUMPH, AND WITH IT CAME A
SENSE OF FANTASTIC POWER!



I TELL YOU, DOCTOR,
IT FEELS WONDERFUL!
AND SOMEDAY, I'LL BE
ABLE TO DO **OTHER**
THINGS WITH MY MIND...
BIGGER THINGS!
THERE WILL BE NO
STOPPING ME!

I SINCERELY HOPE,
MISTER KRUPP, THAT
YOU YOURSELF WILL
DECIDE TO STOP...
BEFORE YOU GO
TOO FAR!

BUT THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE MEANT NOTHING TO ME! THREE LONG YEARS LATER, I FELT MYSELF READY FOR ANOTHER MILESTONE...



RIGHT HERE IN THE DUNGEON, I'M GOING TO CREATE AN ANIMAL... ONE UNLIKE ANY OTHER ON EARTH! IT WILL BE A CROSS BETWEEN A GORILLA AND A DINOSAUR!

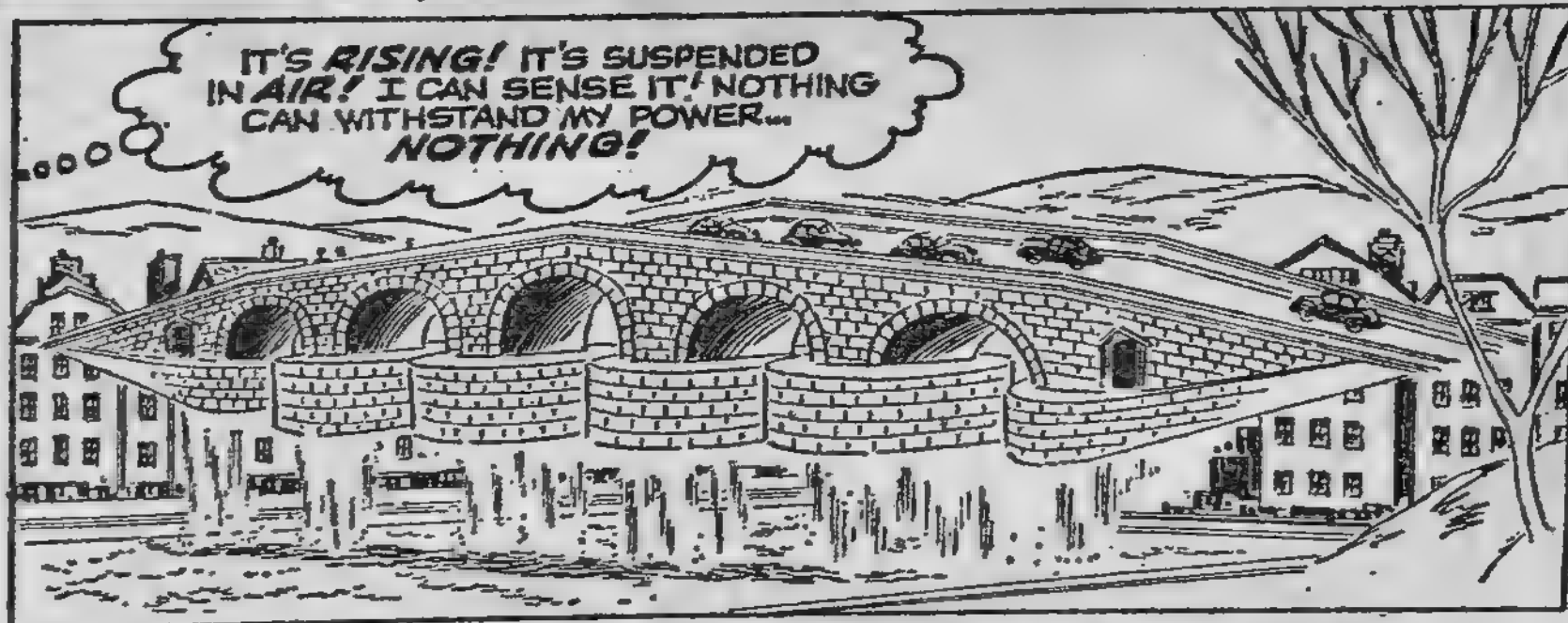
AN ANIMAL THAT IS HALF GORILLA AND HALF DINOSAUR... I'LL CALL IT A GOROSAUR... AND I WANT IT TO APPEAR NOW!



I'VE DONE IT! I'VE CREATED A MONSTER! AND HE WILL OBEY ME! I AM HIS MASTER... AS ONE DAY I'LL BE THE MASTER OF ALL EARTH! FROM NOW ON, I'LL CALL MYSELF MENTO THE MIGHTY!



AND SO IT CONTINUED... MY BRAIN MIGHTIER AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS GREATER! IN MY TENTH YEAR, I HAD THE POWER TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD...



IT'S RISING! IT'S SUSPENDED IN AIR! I CAN SENSE IT! NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND MY POWER... NOTHING!

I WAS IN MY FIFTEENTH YEAR WHEN I REDUCED THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF A METROPOLIS TO THE HEIGHT OF ONE FOOT!

LAUGHINGLY, I PUT EVERYTHING BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN! I HAD NO TIME FOR SMALL, AMUSING TRICKS ANY LONGER! I WAS NOW READY! READY TO... CONQUER THE WORLD!



WE... WE'RE SMALLER THAN DWARFS!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO US? WHAT?

IT'S LIKE A MAD NIGHTMARE! BUT IT'S REAL... (SOB!) ALL TOO REAL!

NO! I WON'T LET YOU DO IT! THIS MADNESS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH! I'M GOING TO DESTROY THAT MACHINE!



FOOL! YOU CANNOT DEFY MENTO THE MIGHTY! NOBODY CAN!



AND FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT...

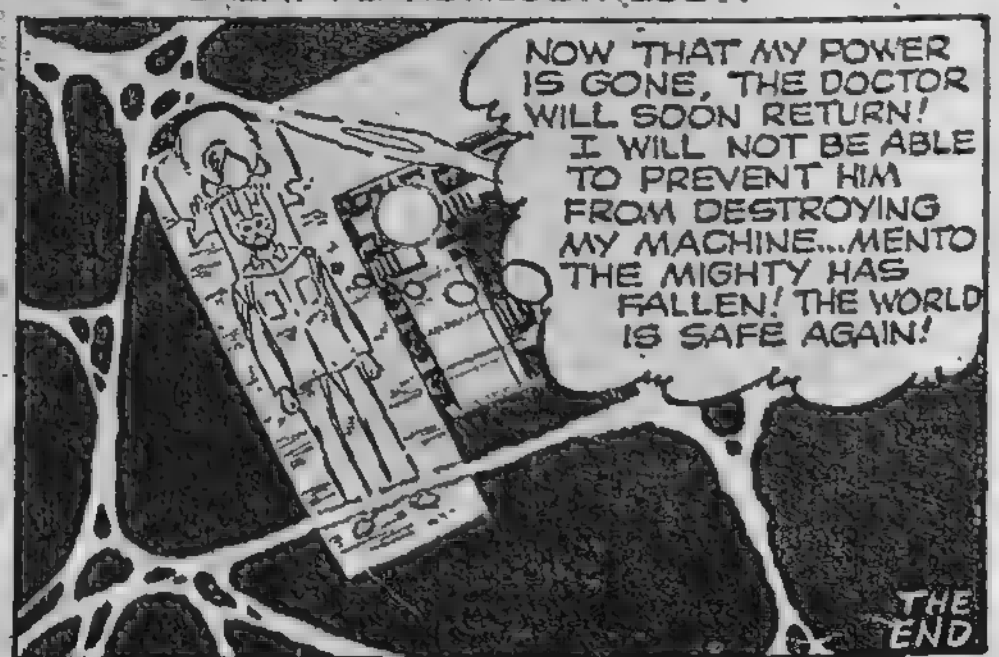


BUT BEFORE MY FEARFUL CREATION COULD REACH ME... COULD DESTROY ME...



BUT I WASN'T DEFEATED YET, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS GET UP AND FIX THE SHORT CIRCUIT... A RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE TASK FOR ME! EXCEPT... THERE WAS ONE THING I HADN'T COUNTED ON... ONE SMALL, UNEXPECTED THING...

AND HERE I REMAIN, MOTIONLESS, HOPELESS, VICTIM OF MY OWN FOLLY! I MENTO, WHO WAS ONCE THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON EARTH, NOW MORE HELPLESS THAN A NEWBORN INFANT! ALL IS LOST! ALL THOSE YEARS... THOSE GREAT PLANS... LOST! LOST!



MITCH WAS RUNNING AWAY... BUT
NO MATTER WHERE HE WENT, THEY'D
GET HIM!

I'VE GOT TO HIDE!

ONE
OF THE
STRANGEST
TALES
EVER
TOLD!

MR. GALLOP... AMOS... I--I DON'T
MAKE FRIENDS EASILY! WILL--WILL
YOU BE MY GUEST FOR DINNER?
THERE'S A SECRET I MUST
SHARE WITH SOMEONE...
AND I--I TRUST YOU!

THANKS, MITCH! I'VE WANTED
TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER
FOR A LONG TIME!



FOR NEARLY A YEAR, AMOS AND MITCH HAD WORKED
SIDE BY SIDE, YET HARDLY A WORD HAD PASSED
BETWEEN THEM...

YOU SAY IT
ALL STARTED
FIVE YEARS
AGO, MITCH?

YES, BUT IT SEEMS A LOT
LONGER! JOBS BORED ME!
I SPENT ALL MY TIME LOOKING
FOR EXCITEMENT--ALWAYS
GETTING INTO TROUBLE...



THEN, ONE NIGHT, I ACCIDENTALLY SHORT-
CIRCUITED THE ELECTRIC POWER PLANT...
BLACKED OUT THE AREA FOR MILES
AROUND! I WAS FRIGHTENED BY WHAT
THE LAW AUTHORITIES WOULD DO, AND
DECIDED TO RUN AWAY!





IT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD DO... HEAD FOR THE HILLS! YOU KNOW...

SURE, MITCH, I KNOW!

THE HILLS SOUTH OF TOWN!

I...(GASP!) I'VE GOT TO HIDE!

A MOMENT LATER MY FRIGHT RECEDED IN A RUSH FOR HIDDEN BY THE THICK UNDERGROWTH...



AN OLD MINE SHAFT!

THE DARKNESS OF THE OLD MINE WAS ASSURING! I FELT SAFE...

THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME DOWN HERE! WHAT'S THAT? LOOKS LIKE A SILVER NUGGET!

THERE WAS A TRAIL OF NUGGETS! IF I'D ONLY KNOWN WHERE THEY WERE LEADING ME!



THERE'S ANOTHER NUGGET AND THERE'S ONE MORE!

I PICKED UP ALL OF THE SILVER... THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, I BROKE INTO A COLD SWEAT!

I RAN WILDLY THRU A MAZE OF TUNNELS... BUT FINALLY WAS FORCED TO CONCLUDE...



I THINK I'M LOST!

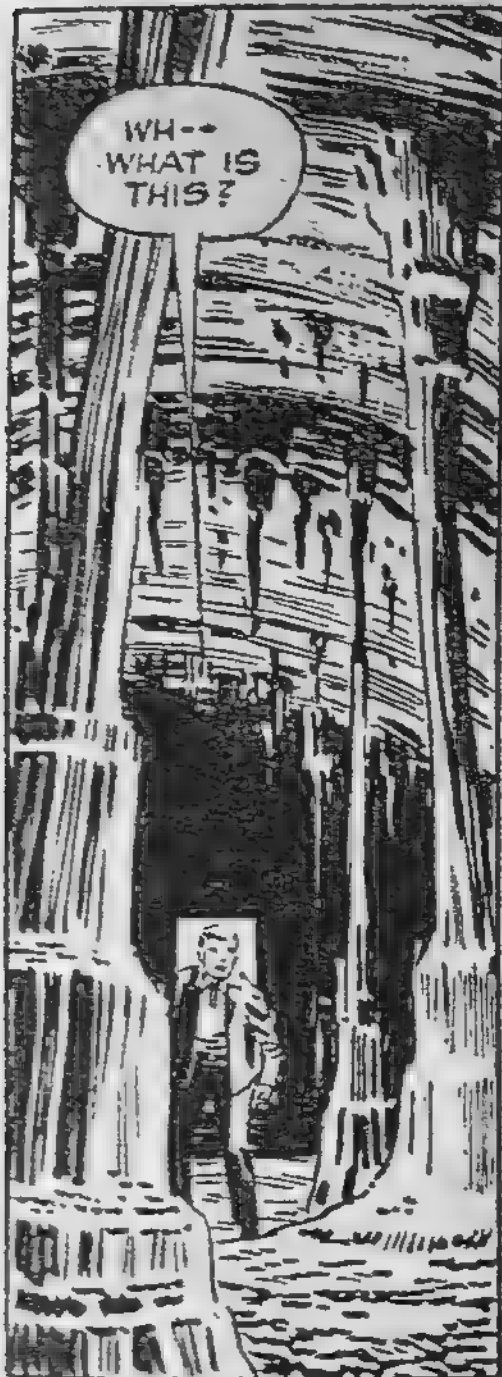


I AM LOST!



"I WAS IN A PANIC! THEN... I SAW IT... A STRANGE BLUE LIGHT IN THE DISTANCE..."

THAT MUST BE WHERE THE SHAFT IS!



WH-- WHAT IS THIS?



"I SOON FOUND OUT..."

YOU NEED NOT STRUGGLE, WAYWARD ONE... YOU ARE AMONG FRIENDS! ONLY FUGITIVES FIND THEIR WAY HERE...

NO! NO!



"...HOWEVER, YOU CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A MEMBER OF OUR FUGITIVE GROUP UNTIL YOUR FOREHEAD IS ADORNED WITH THE LETTER 'F' FOR FUGITIVE! ONCE ON, IT WILL NEVER COME OFF!"



"PERHAPS I CAUGHT THEM BY SURPRISE! WITH ALL MY STRENGTH I TORE FREE OF THEM AND RAN!"

STOP!

"SOMEHOW, I STUMBLED BACK INTO THE RIGHT TUNNEL! I COULD HEAR THEIR FEET POUNDING BEHIND ME AS I CLIMBED OUT OF THE SHAFT!"



WE'LL FIND YOU ANYWHERE ON EARTH YOU GO!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

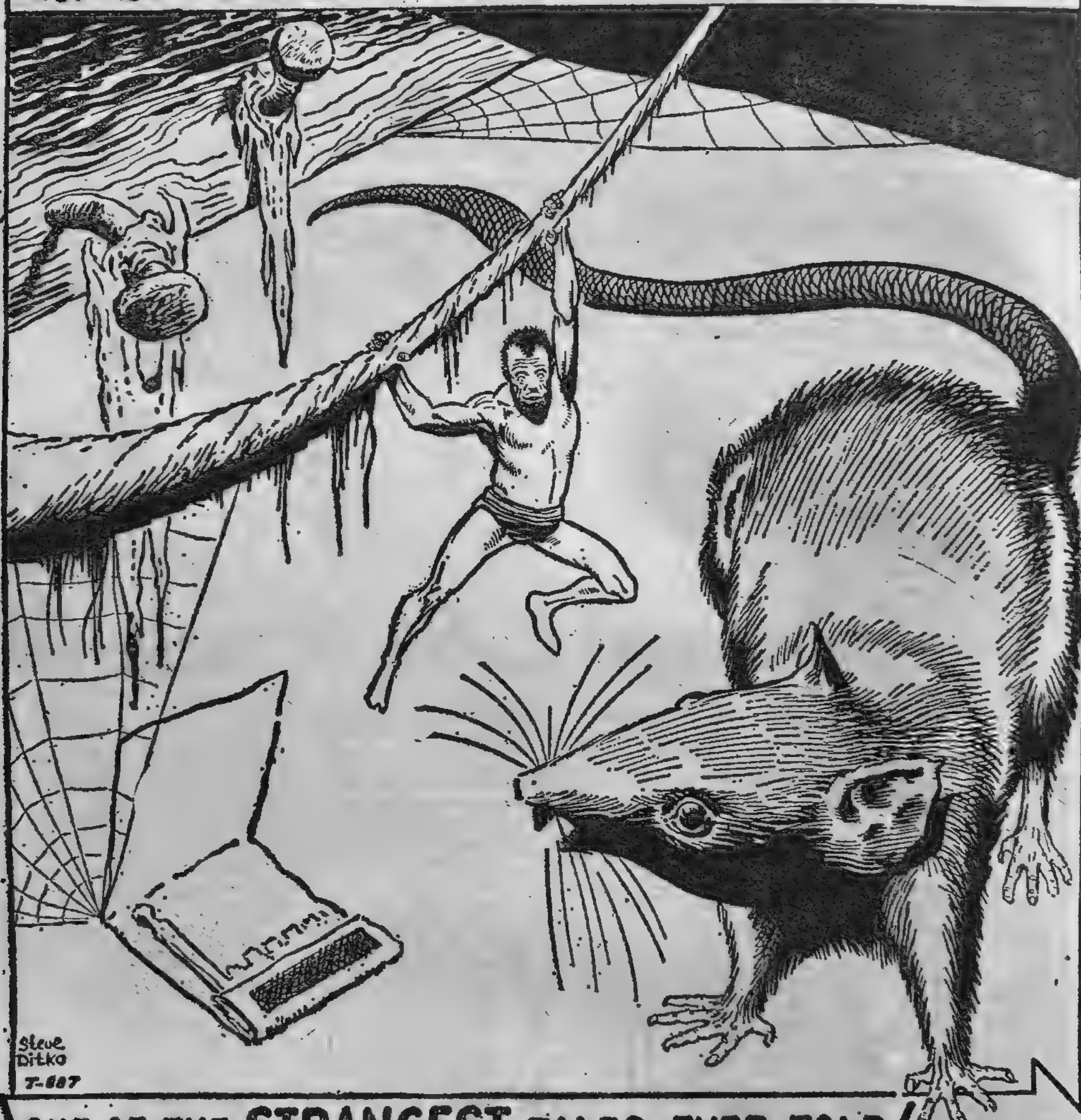


BUT NO-GOOD OLD AMOS WAS BREATHING AIR THAT WAS DARK AND FOUL... AND THE FACE BENEATH THE SKIN-TIGHT MASK THAT POSED AS AMOS, WAS ANYTHING BUT GOOD...

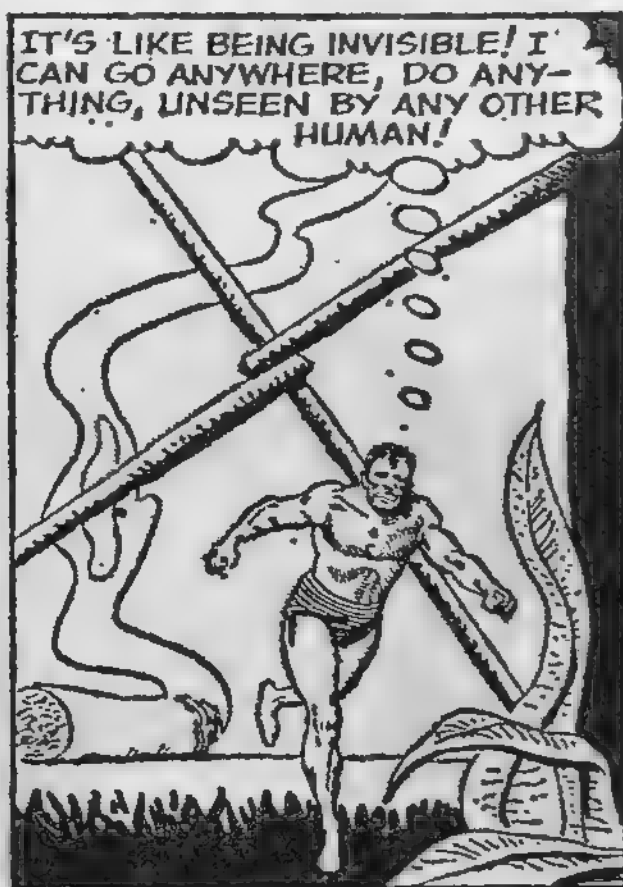


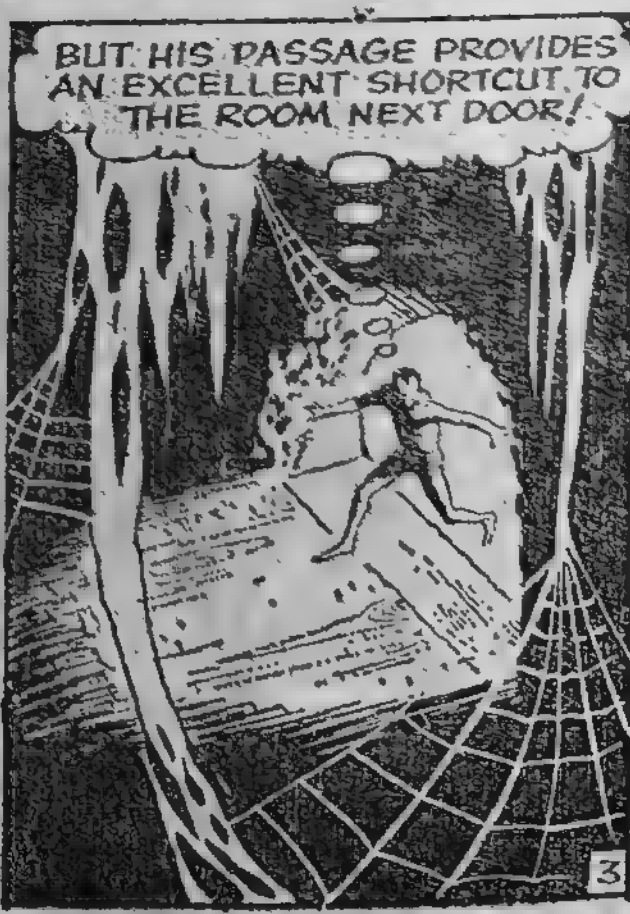
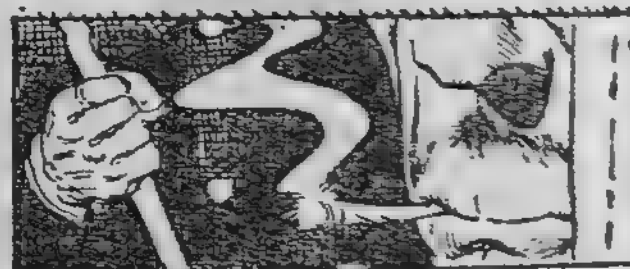
**DEAR READER:
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE
IF YOU WERE THE...**

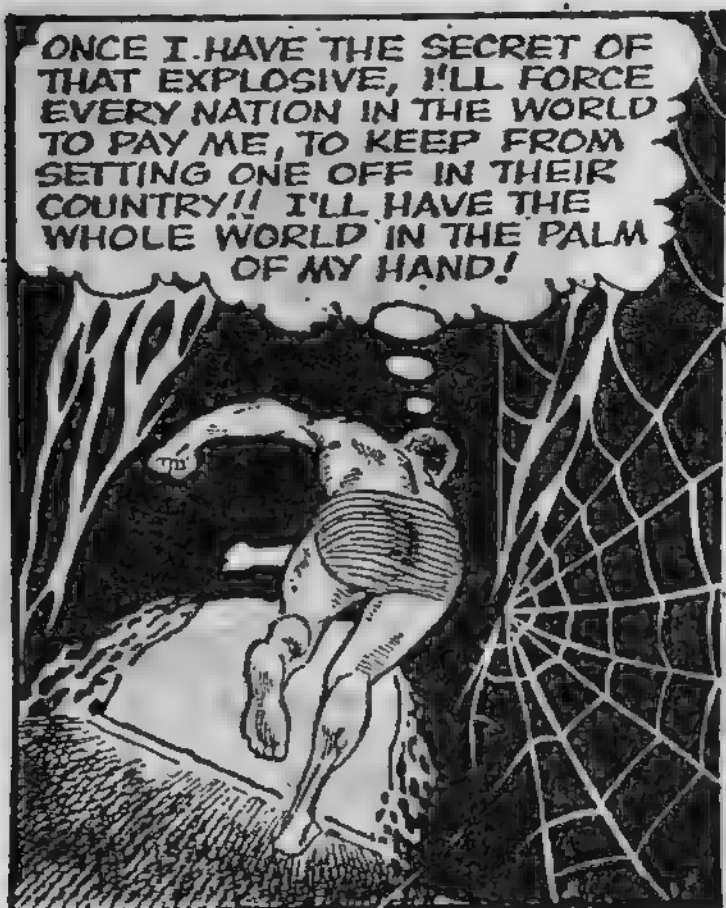
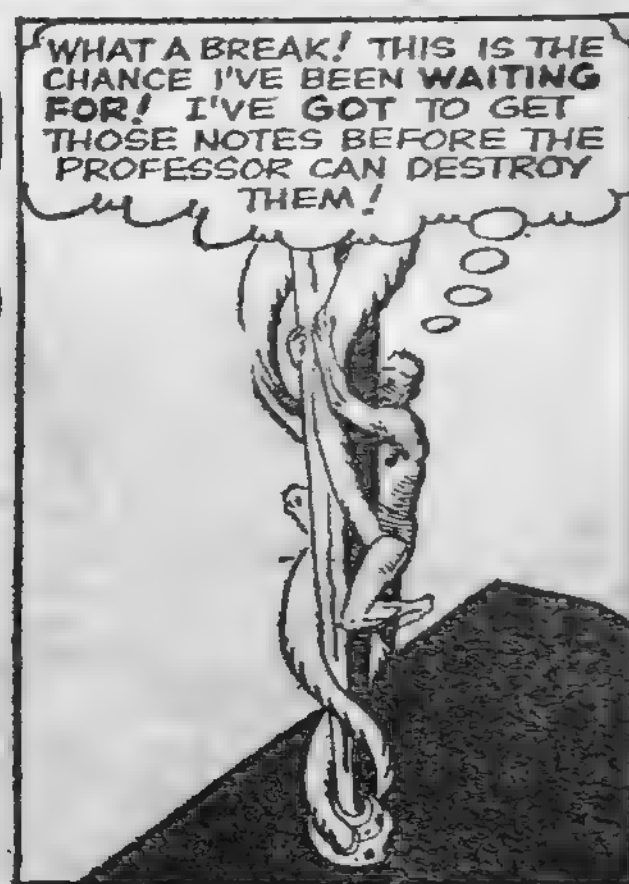
WORM MAN

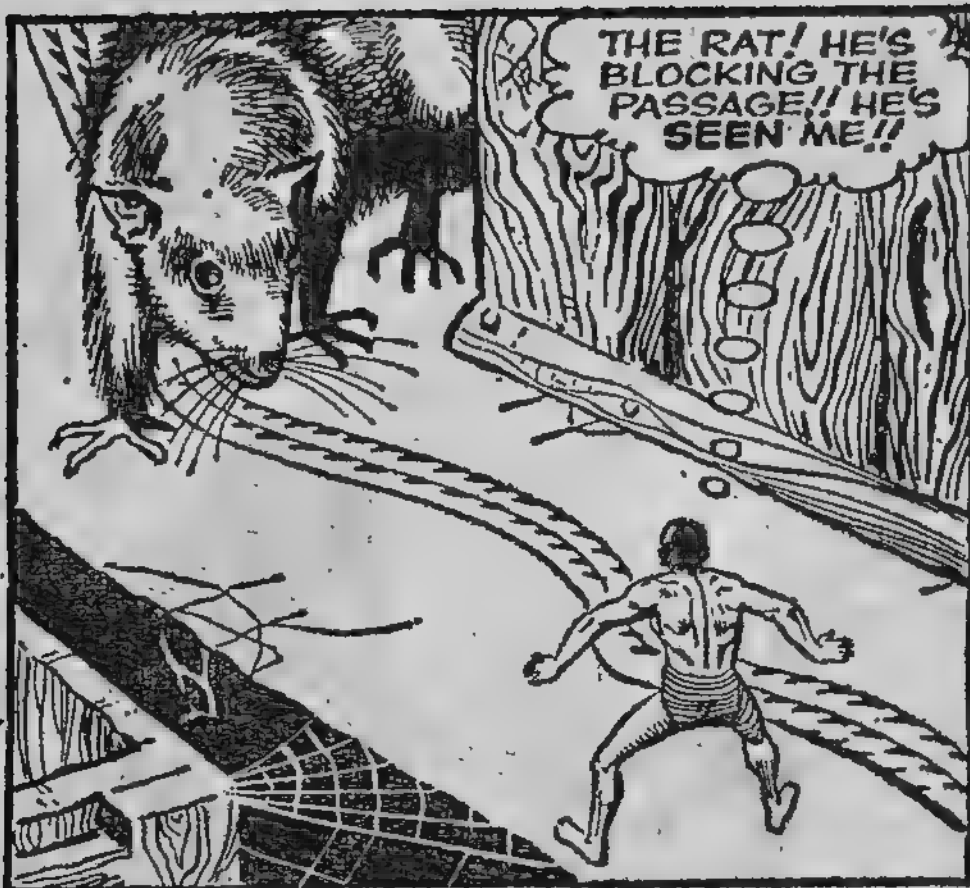


ONE OF THE STRANGEST TALES EVER TOLD!.....









T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENT

NoMan

ONE HALF OF ALL MATTER ON EARTH IS WATER BUT WHAT ARE THE OTHER ELEMENTS IN NATURE THAT MAKE A TREE DIFFERENT THAN A CLOUD A MAN DIFFERENT THAN A FLOWER? **NOMAN** MEETS ONE WHO HAS LEARNED SOME OF THE SECRETS, AND USES HIS KNOWLEDGE TO ENDANGER THE ENTIRE WORLD BALANCE OF POWER....

"THE ROCK"



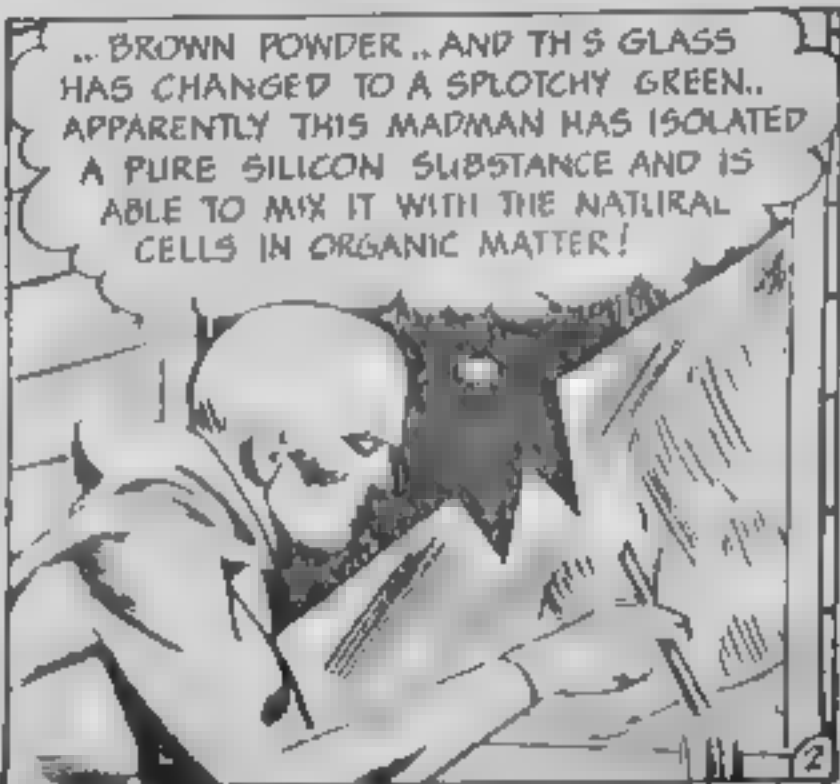
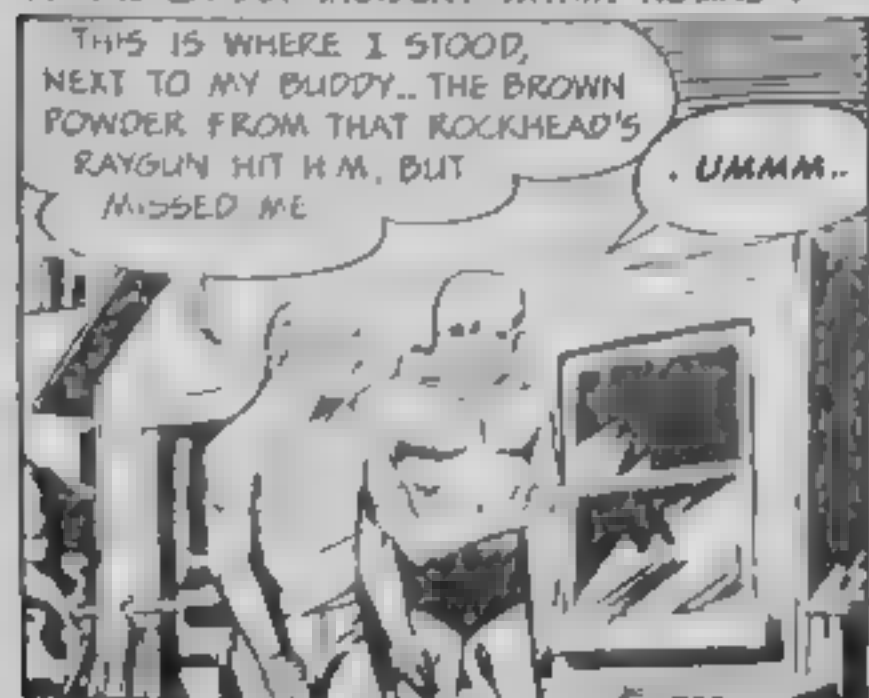
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, ANOTHER ROBBERY...

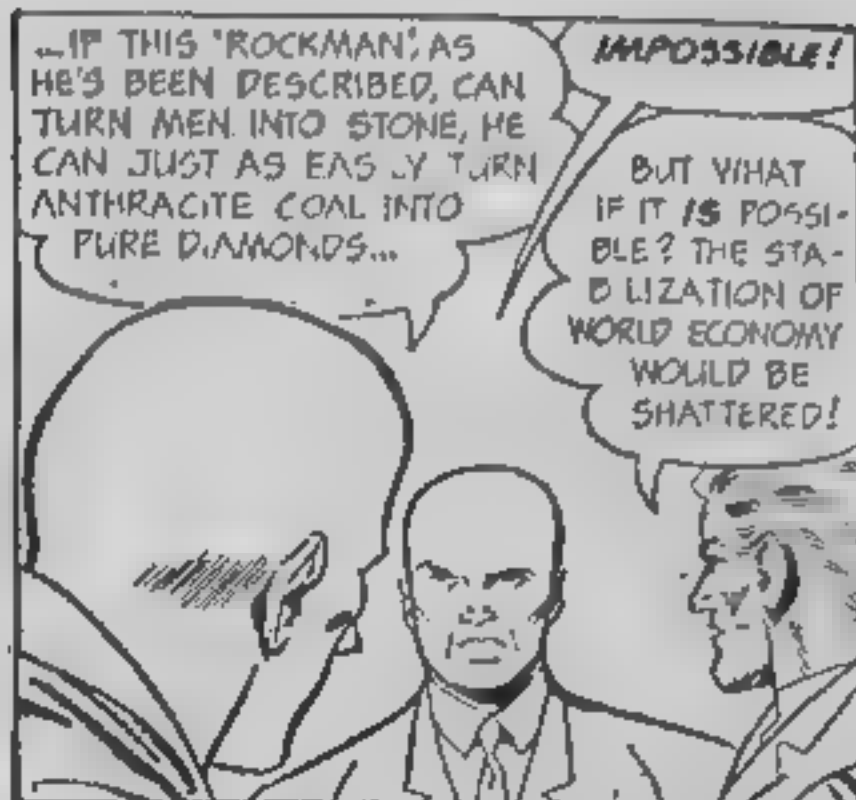
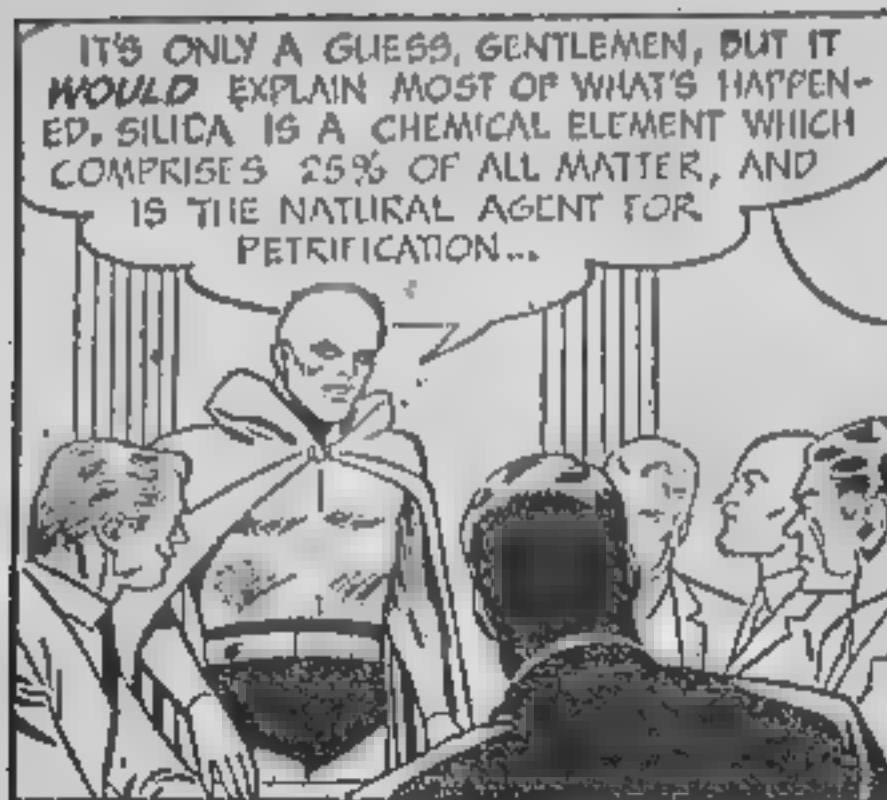


THUNDER. HQ., THAT SAME AFTERNOON...

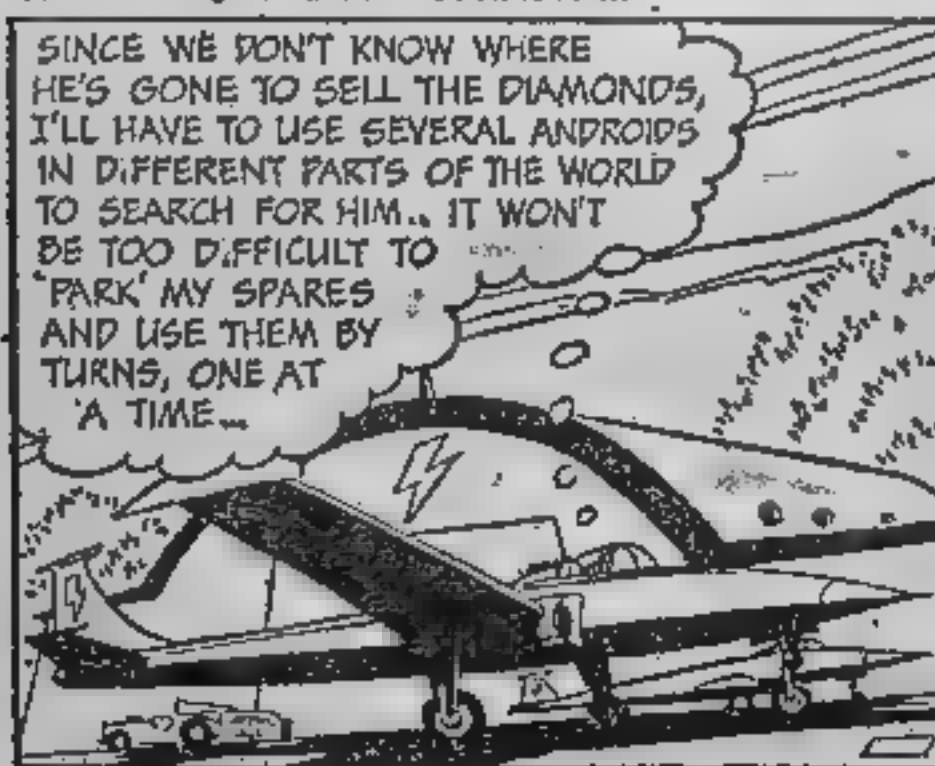


TOP PRIORITY PLACES NOMAN AT THE SCENE OF THE LATEST INCIDENT WITHIN HOURS.

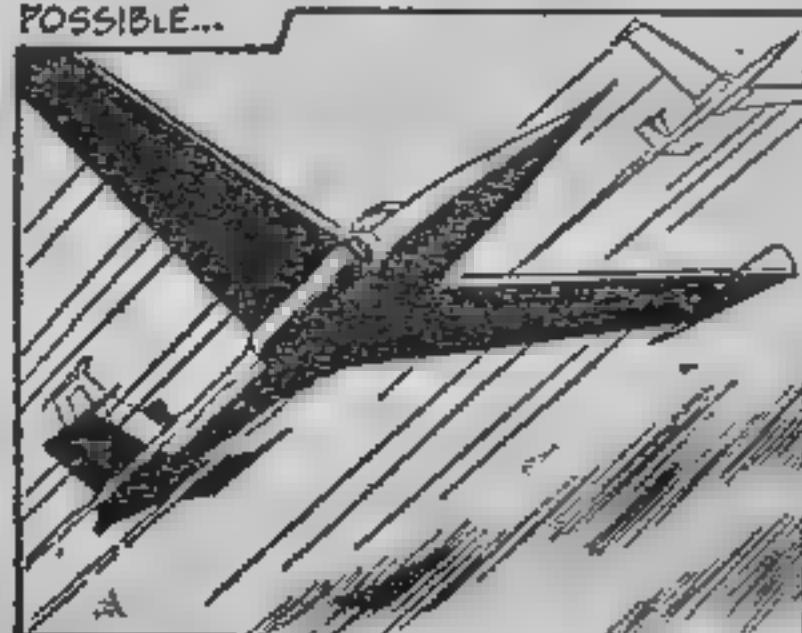




THUNDER'S PRIVATE AIRFIELD...



THE SQUAD OF NOMAN ANDROIDS IS DEPLOYED TO ALL INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS WHERE A LARGE VOLUME TRANSACTION OF ILLEGAL GEMS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE...



IN MARSEILLE, A LEAD AT LAST!



NOMAN KEEPS THE MEN IN SIGHT AS THEY LEAVE THE CAFE...



AND WHEN THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION...



THE STARTLE AND CHAOS ARE QUICKLY SUPPLANTED BY THE POWER OF THE...



I HAVEN'T TIME TO BOTHER WITH YOU - QUICK! WHERE ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO PICK UP THE NEXT DIAMOND??



GOOD-YOU'LL SERVE AS MY GUIDE!



LATE THAT NIGHT, A CHILLY DRIZZLE
MAKES THE DARK WHARF AN EVEN MORE
GLOOMY PLACE THAN USUAL...

KEEP QUIET
UNTIL HE GETS
OUT OF THE
CAR...

SEBASTIAN!
ARE YOU
THERE!

Y-YES... I'M
HERE...

BUT LOOK
OUT BEHIND
YOU!

WHO'S
THERE!?

I'VE GONE TO SOME
TROUBLE SETTING UP
THIS MEETING,
STRANGER...

YOU'LL REGRET
YOUR INTRUSION!



LOCKING THE FINGERS OF HIS ONE GOOD HAND INTO GRIPS WITH THE TENACITY OF IRON BOLTS, NORMAN FITS SNUGLY IN PLACE ON THE BACK BUMPER OF THE CAR...

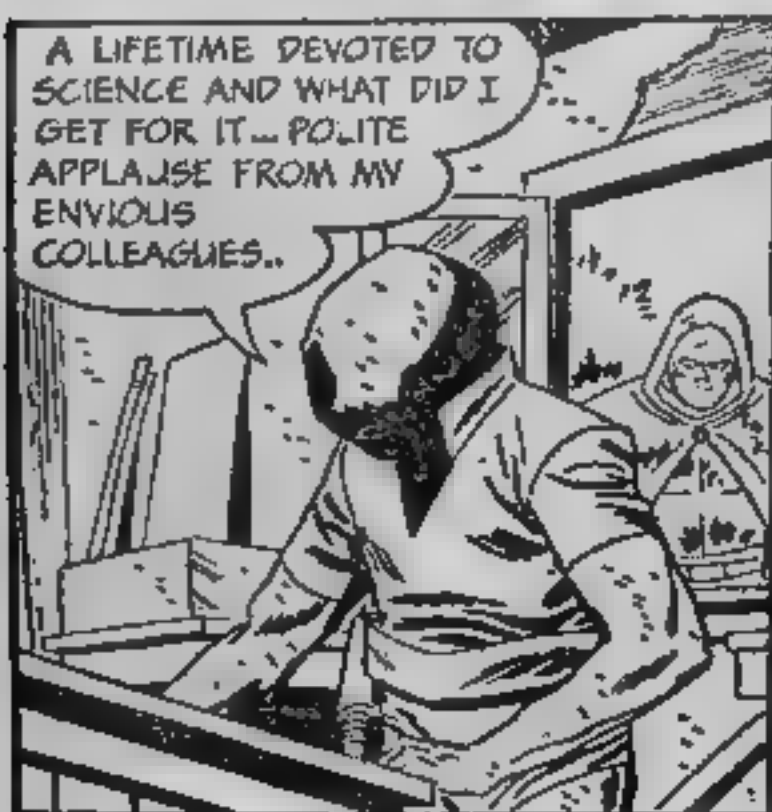
INLAND FROM THE PORT OF MARSEILLE,
THE 'ROCK' DOESN'T STOP UNTIL LONG PAST
THE COLD LIGHT OF DAWN...



LOOKS LIKE A RUNDOWN
FARMHOUSE FROM HERE... BUT
I'LL WAGER THAT'S WHERE HE'S
GOT THE REST OF HIS FRESHLY
MADE DIAMONDS...

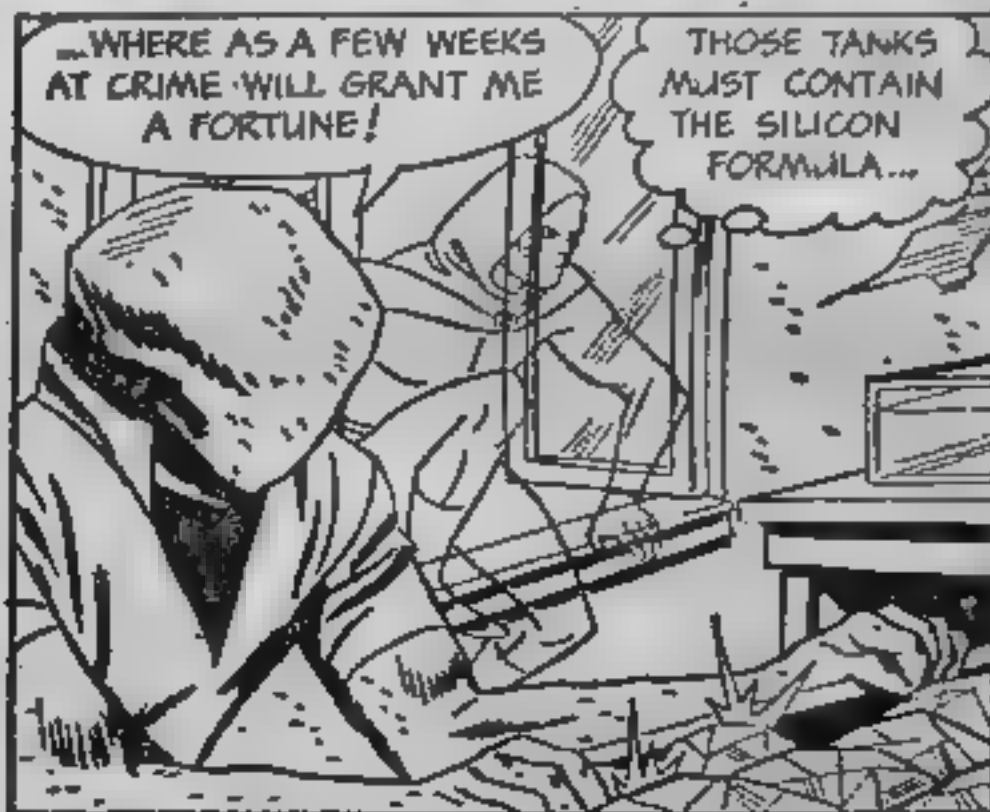


A LIFETIME DEVOTED TO
SCIENCE AND WHAT DID I
GET FOR IT... POLITE
APPLAUSE FROM MY
ENVIOUS
COLLEAGUES...



...WHERE AS A FEW WEEKS
AT CRIME WILL GRANT ME
A FORTUNE!

THOSE TANKS
MUST CONTAIN
THE SILICON
FORMULA...



WHY SHOULD I GIVE THE
WORLD AN INVENTION
IT TOOK YEARS OF
RESEARCH TO
PERFECT?
WHA...

MAYBE BECAUSE
OF A MORAL LAW
ALL CIVILIZED
MEN SHOULD
RESPECT...



YOU AGAIN! FOOL-THERE'S
ENOUGH SOLUTION IN THERE
TO TURN A WHOLE CITY
TO STONE!





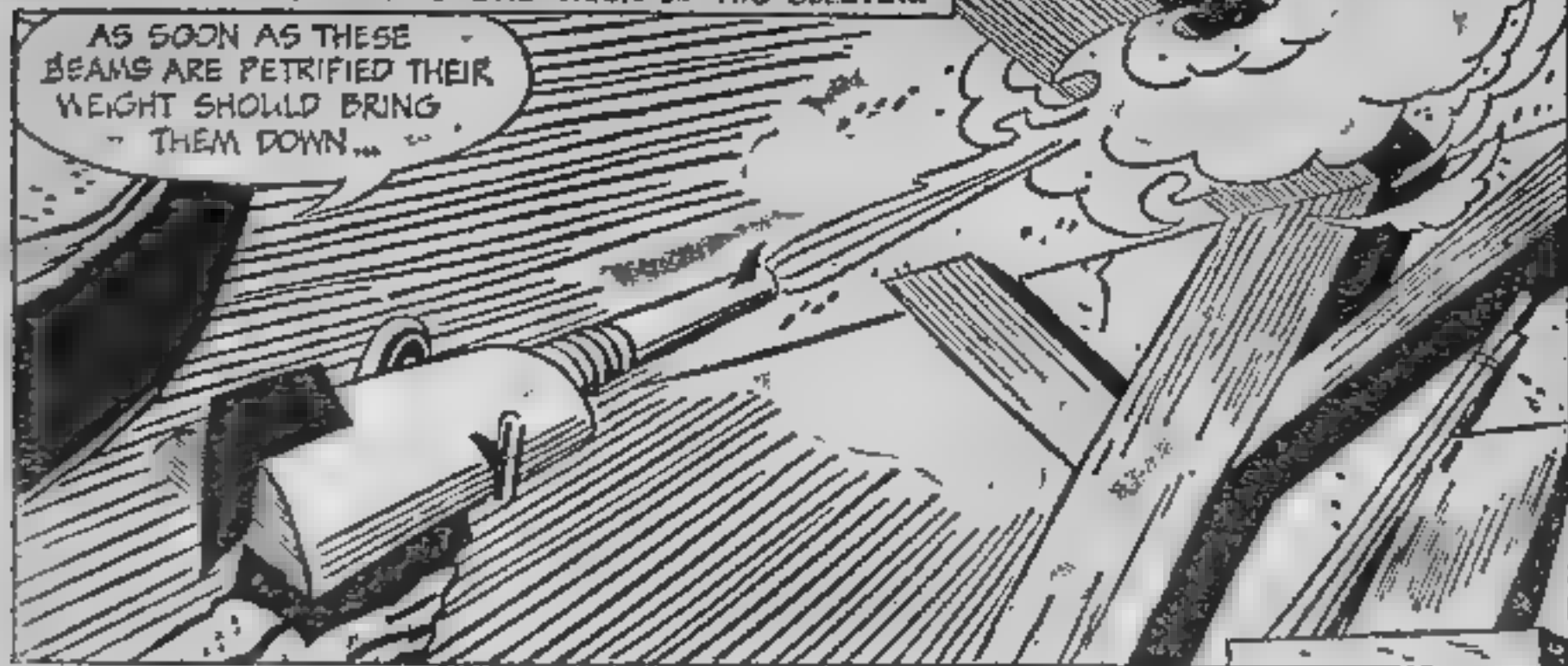
JUST WHAT I'M
COUNTING ON...



YOU'VE PROVEN
YOU'VE GOT A HARD
HEAD, IN MORE WAYS
THAN ONE... BUT THIS
OUGHT TO EVEN
THE SITUATION!

WHACK!

BUT THE "ROCK" STILL HAS ONE TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE...



AS SOON AS THESE
BEAMS ARE PETRIFIED THEIR
WEIGHT SHOULD BRING
THEM DOWN...



KER-RASH!



SCORE ONE
FOR THE GREAT
STONEFACE...





NO... NO MORE-
I'M THROUGH...



I'LL SAY YOU ARE.. JUST
SIT HERE AND MIND YOUR
MANNERS.. I'VE ONE
MORE LITTLE CHORE TO
GET OUT OF THE WAY..



IT'S A SHAME, BUT THERE
REALLY AREN'T ANY BRIDES
AROUND WHO COULD WEAR
A BAUBLE THIS SIZE
ON THEIR FINGERS...

EVERYTHING
.. GONE...

SOME DAYS LATER, AT THUNDER HEADQUARTERS..



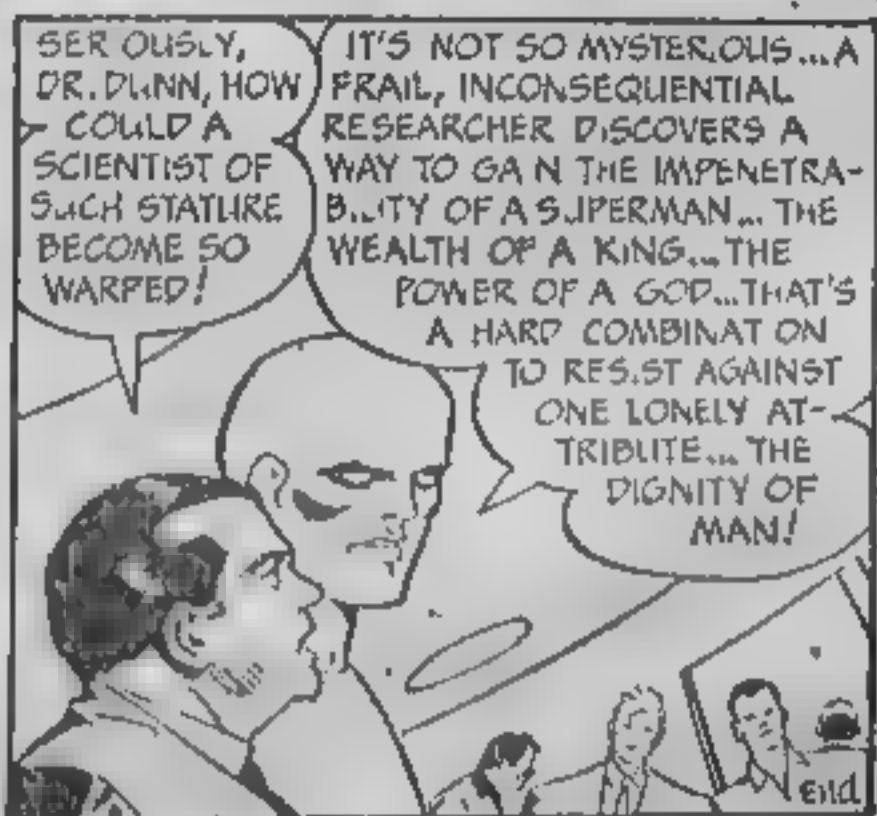
HOW DOES THAT
HAND FEEL NOW,
NOMAN?

PLIABLE AGAIN, THE ANTI-
DOTE WORKS.. OF COURSE,
THE WRIST IS STILL BROKEN
ON THE OTHER ONE...



WE'LL GET THIS ANDROID OVER
TO THE LAB RIGHT AWAY... YOU'RE
TOO VALUABLE TO HAVE EVEN
ONE UNIT OUT OF COMMISS-
SION FOR LONG...

FLATTERER..



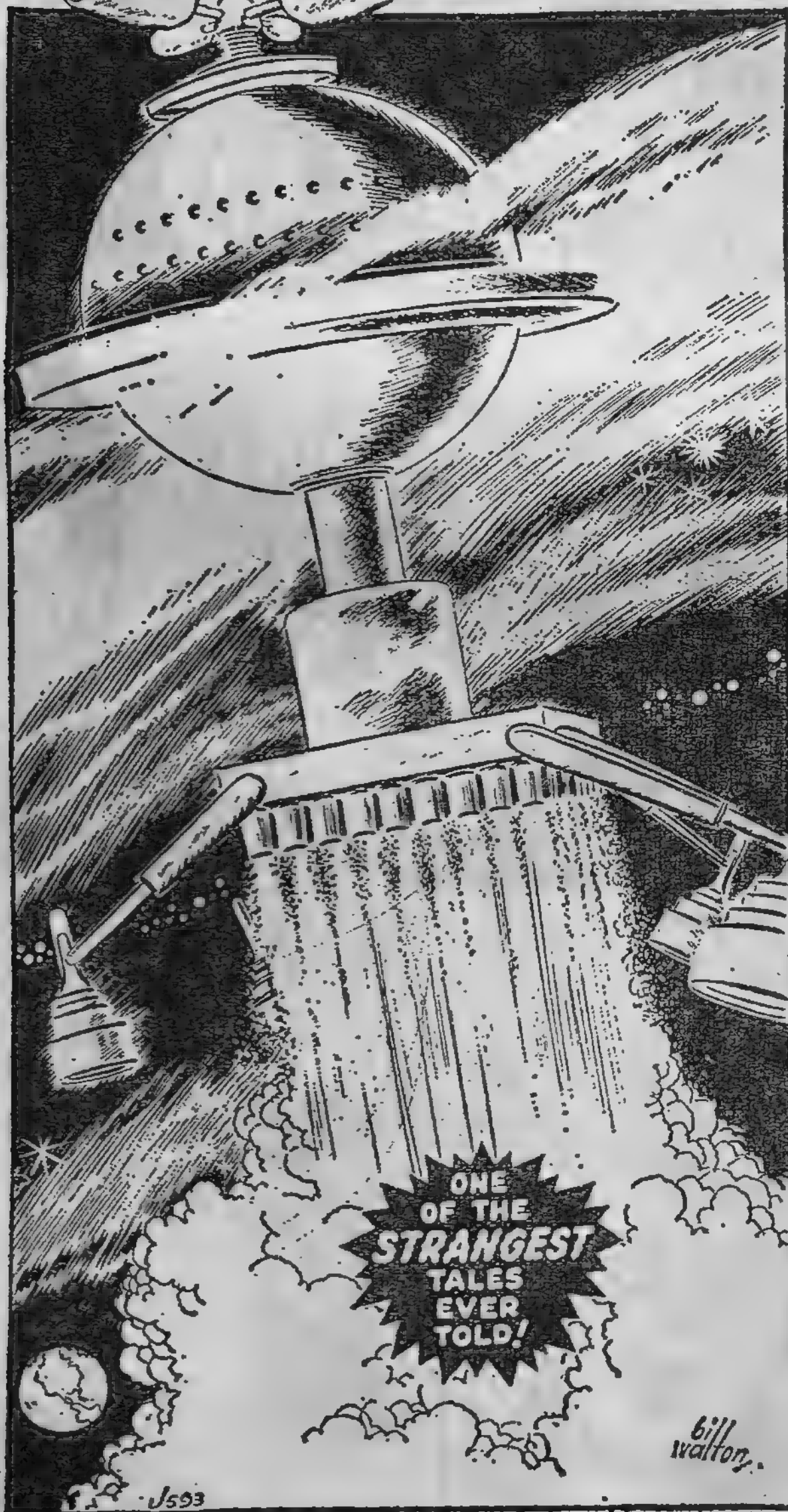
SERIOUSLY,
DR. DUNN, HOW
COULD A
SCIENTIST OF
SUCH STATURE
BECOME SO
WARPED!

IT'S NOT SO MYSTERIOUS... A
FRAIL, INCONSEQUENTIAL
RESEARCHER DISCOVERS A
WAY TO GAIN THE IMPENETRA-
BILITY OF A SUPERMAN... THE
WEALTH OF A KING... THE
POWER OF A GOD... THAT'S
A HARD COMBINATION
TO RESIST AGAINST
ONE LONELY AT-
TRIBUTE... THE
DIGNITY OF
MAN!

end

THIS IS THE EARTH'S FIRST SPACE STATION! IT HOVERS BETWEEN THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF EARTH AND THE MOON AND MOVES IN AN ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH! FROM IT, MEN ARE MAKING IMPORTANT STUDIES THAT WILL ENABLE MANKIND TO REACH THE STARS! IT'S A WONDERFUL THING TO LOOK UP FROM EARTH AND SEE IT THERE! AND SOMETIMES WE WONDER ABOUT THE MEN WHO MAN IT AND LIVE IN IT! WHAT KIND OF MEN ARE THEY? ARE THEY LIKE US? DO THEY HAVE PROBLEMS LIKE OURS? THIS IS THE STORY OF...

"THE MAN IN SPACE!"



THIS IS DON ARLEN! THE SPACE STATION WAS HIS IDEA, HIS BRAIN CHILD! HE'S BEEN IN COMMAND OF IT SINCE ITS BEGINNING, THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD MENTALLY AND SCIENTIFICALLY QUALIFIED FOR THE COMMAND!



YOUR PERSONAL PRIORITY CALL IS COMING IN!

THANKS, JORY! I'LL TAKE OVER!

HE SAT DOWN IN FRONT OF THE VISAPHONE MACHINE THAT WAS BEAMED TO EARTH! HIS FACE WAS MOBILE WITH PLEASANT EAGERNESS...



COME IN, EARTH! RUTH DO YOU RECEIVE ME?

ONE OF THE STRANGEST TALES EVER TOLD!

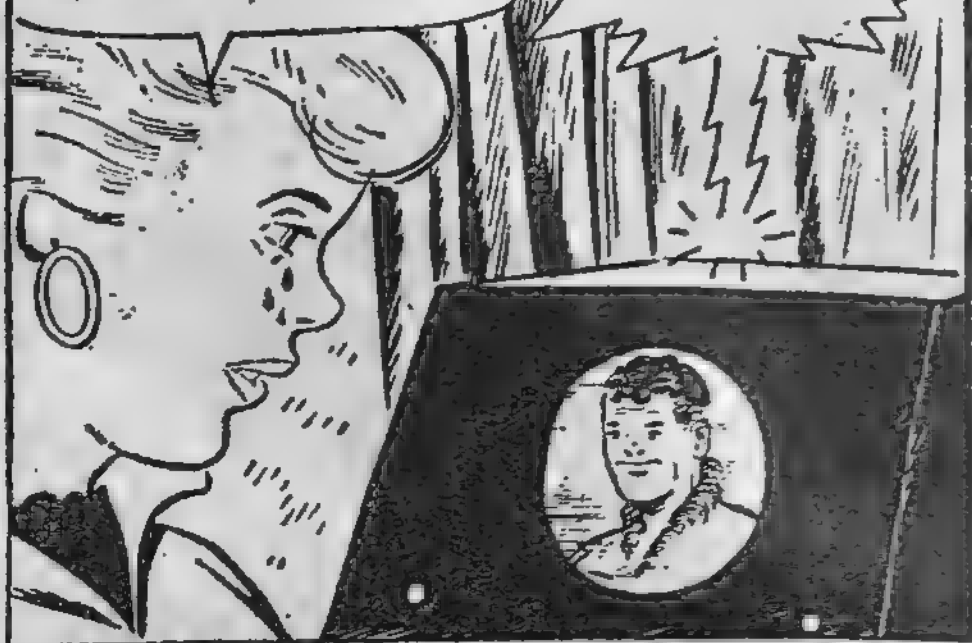
Bill Walton

A FACE FORMED ON THE SCREEN, A WOMAN'S FACE, LOVELY BUT STRAINED, THE FACE OF A WOMAN IN LOVE WHO HAS WAITED FOR A LONG TIME!



TIREDB, DEAREST... SO TIRED OF WAITING! FIRST IT WAS TO BE ONLY FOUR YEARS, BUT NOW IT'S STRETCHED TO EIGHT! EIGHT YEARS OUT OF OUR LIVES!

THE WAITING'S OVER NOW! I'VE TRAINED JORY WELL AND I'M SURE HE'S CAPABLE OF TAKING OVER!

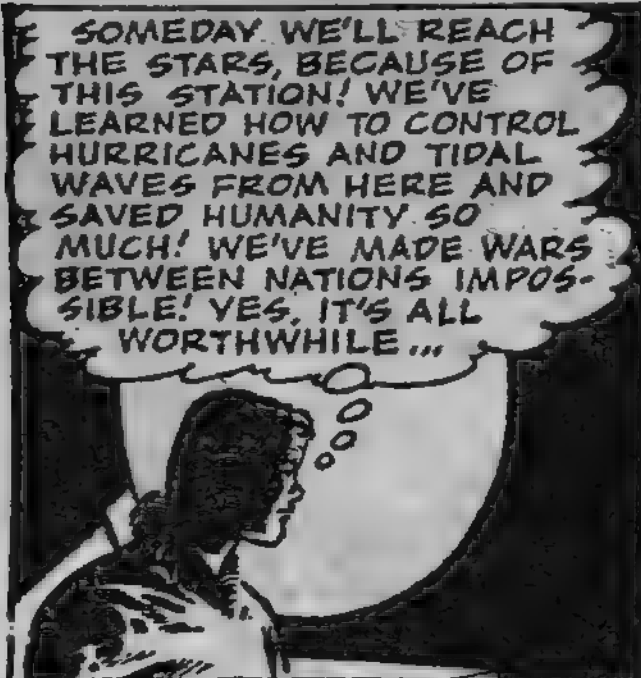


A WOMAN COULDN'T STAND THIS, AWAY FROM THE THINGS SHE KNOWS! IT'S BEEN TERRIBLE FOR BOTH OF US, BUT NOW THE WAITING IS OVER!

HE WALKED TO THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM AND LOOKED OUT AT THE STARS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS LONELY STATION IN SPACE CAME TO HIM AGAIN!

AND AS HE LOOKED, HE SAW IT COME SCREAMING AT HIM FROM OUT OF THAT BLACK IMMENSE NOWHERE, A FLAME, A SOLID CORE OF DISASTER!

THERE WAS NO TIME! IT STRUCK, CRASHING, SMASHING A FIERY FIST THAT SHOOK THE STATION WITH VIOLENT FORCE!



THE IMPACT HAD THROWN ARLEN TO THE FLOOR! HE STRUCK HIS HEAD HARD! FOR A MOMENT HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...

ARLEN! COME OUT OF IT! ARLEN, PLEASE!

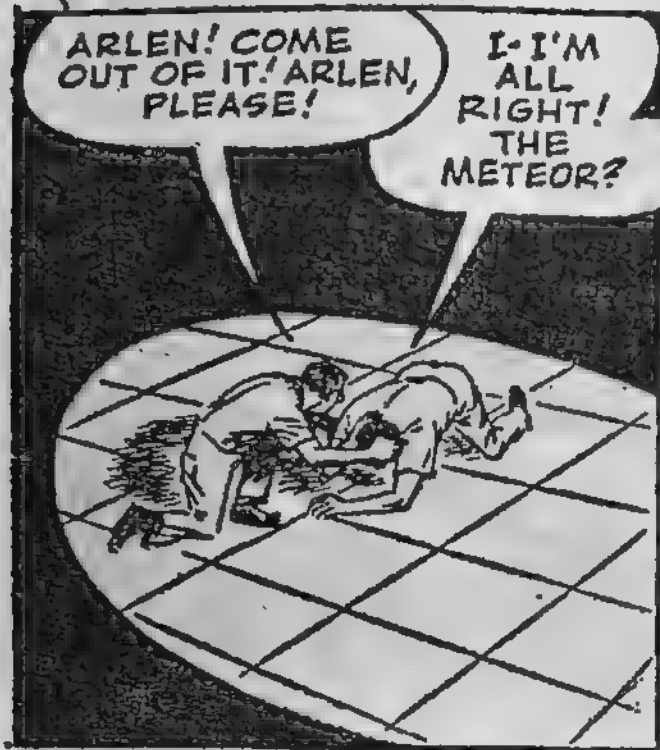
I-I'M ALL RIGHT! THE METEOR?

IT KNOCKED US OFF OUR PATH OF EQUALIZED GRAVITY! ARLEN, WE'RE RUSHING OUT INTO FREE SPACE! WE'RE LOST!

GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, JORY! WHY DIDN'T YOU ISSUE ORDERS TO USE THE ROCKET DRIVES TO PULL US BACK TO OUR ORBIT?

THE METEOR HIT THE ROCKET TUBES! THE DRIVES WON'T WORK! WHAT'LL WE DO?

HAVE ALL PERSONNEL STAND BY AT STATIONS! I WANT TWO MEN AT THE AIRLOCKS...

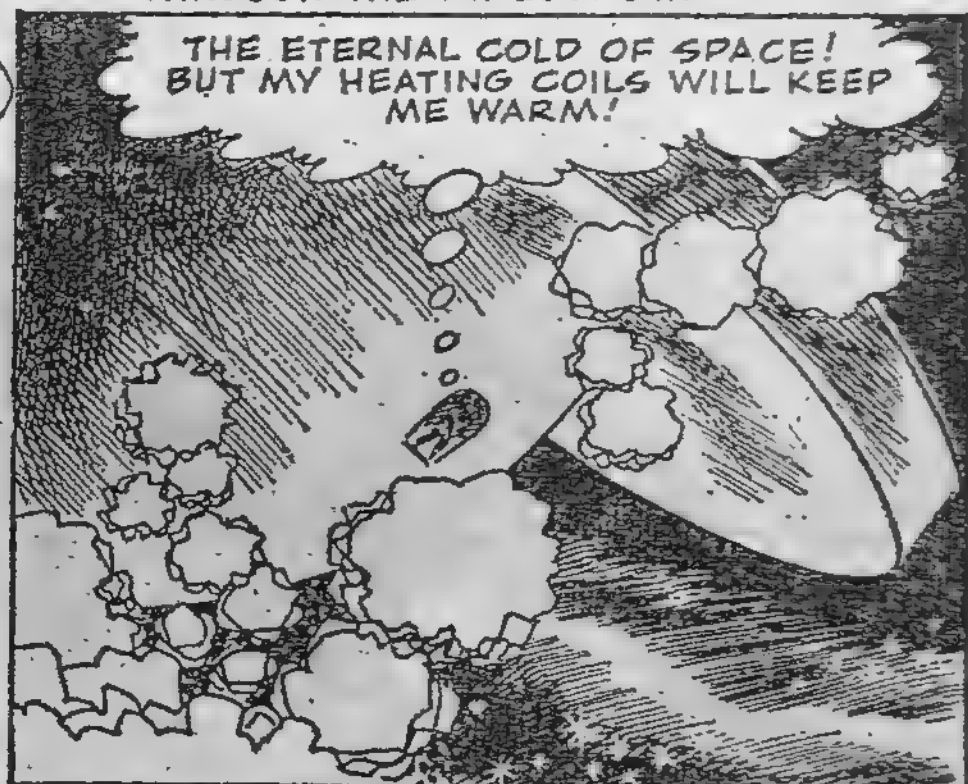


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I'M GOING OUT THERE! YOU MEN, FIT UP A SUIT WITH BOTH HEAT AND COOLING APPARATUS, MANUAL CONTROL! GET ME AN ATOMIZED METAL BLASTER! HURRY!

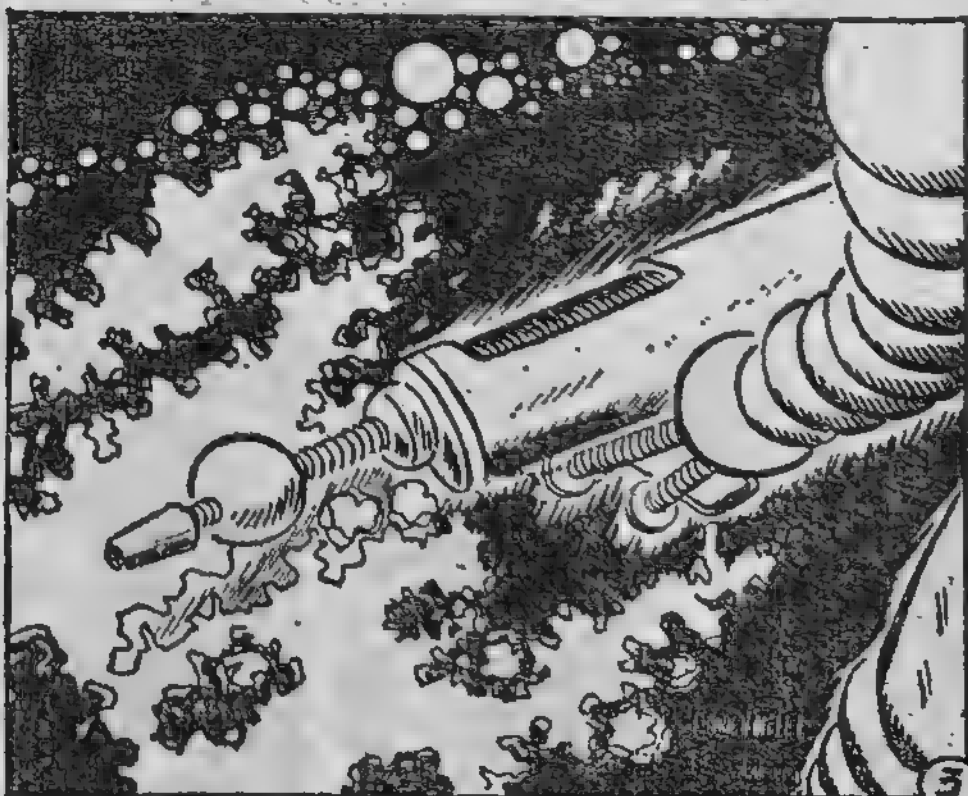
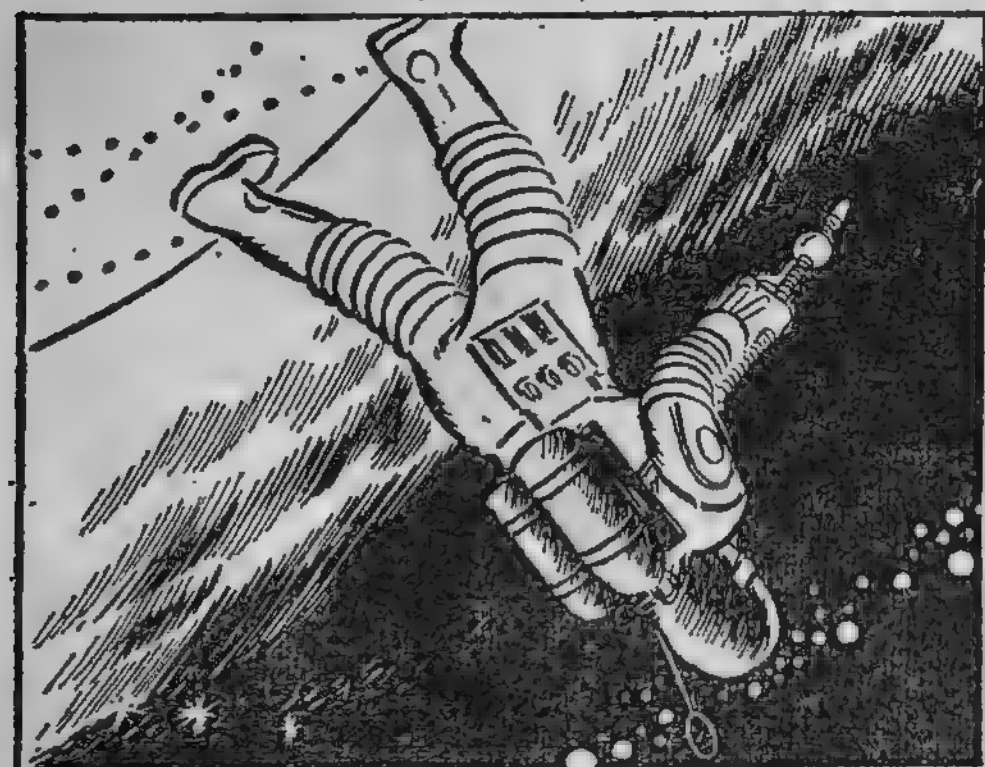
A FEW MINUTES LATER, ARLEN MOVED THROUGH THE AIRLOCKS...

THE ETERNAL COLD OF SPACE! BUT MY HEATING COILS WILL KEEP ME WARM!

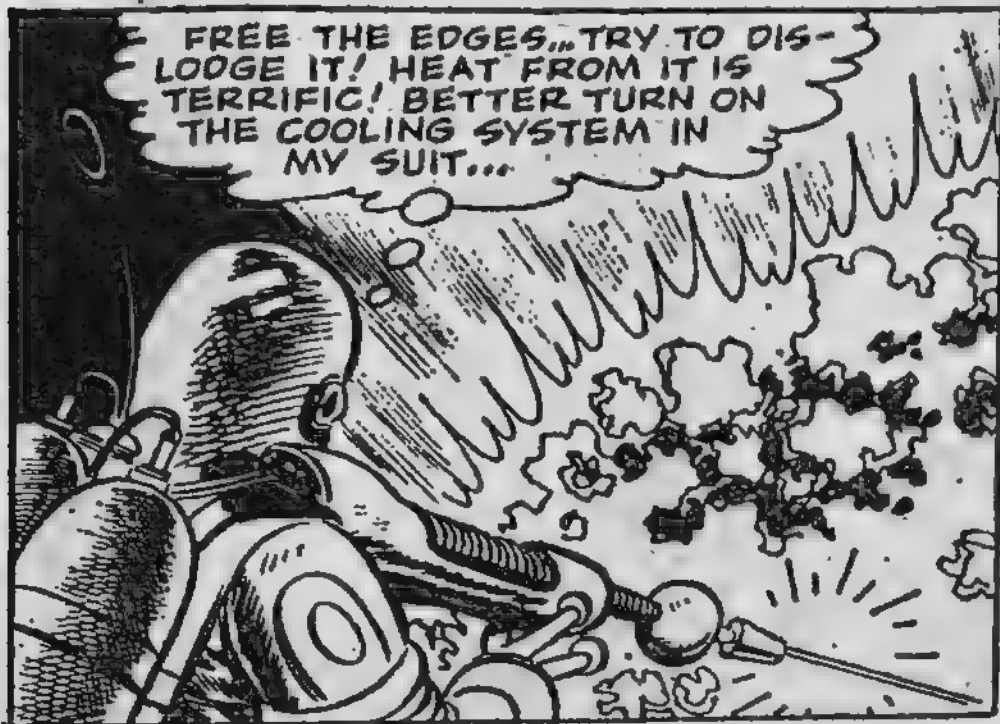


HIS MAGNETIC BOOTS HELD HIM TO THE STATION'S SIDES! HE WALKED LIKE A FLY ON A WALL, FOR HERE IN SPACE THERE IS NO UP OR DOWN!

THERE IS NO GRAVITATION OR WEIGHT AND THE HEAVY COMMERCIAL BLASTER HE CARRIED WAS LIKE A FEATHER IN HIS HANDS!



ALONE AS A MAN HAS NEVER BEEN ALONE BEFORE, KNOWING THAT ONE FALSE MOVE COULD BREAK HIS SLIM CONTACT WITH THE STATION AND LEAVE HIM FLOATING FOREVER IN SPACE, ARLEN WENT TO WORK!



FREE THE EDGES... TRY TO DIS-
LODGE IT! HEAT FROM IT IS
TERRIFIC! BETTER TURN ON
THE COOLING SYSTEM IN
MY SUIT...

BIT BY BIT, HE BLASTED THE EDGES OF THE METEOR, CIRCLING IT SLOWLY, CAREFULLY... A LIFETIME SEEMED TO GO BY...



IT'S LOOSENING, FALLING AWAY!
ONCE I'VE FREED IT, I'LL BLAST
THE ROCKET TUBES OPEN...

THEN IT WAS DONE AND SLOWLY HE INCHED TOWARD THE AIRLOCKS! IF THE ROCKET MECHANISM HAD NOT BEEN DAMAGED... IF THEY WERE NOT TOO FAR OUT, BEYOND RETURNING... IF... IF...



JORY, RELAY THE COMMAND TO FIRE THE ROCKETS! TELL THE NAVIGATOR TO SYNCHRONIZE... AND KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED!



I DIDN'T THINK
IT COULD BE
DONE!

THE ROCKETS FIRED! THE STATION SLOWED, TURNED...

I'M NEEDED HERE!
JORY IS NOT READY
TO TAKE OVER! IN
ANOTHER FOUR
YEARS PERHAPS!
IF I LEFT NOW, I'D
ALWAYS FEEL I
HAD DESERTED
MANKIND!

WE'RE
APPROACHING
OUR ORBIT
AND EQUAL-
IZED GRAVITY
PATH! IT'S
DONE! LOOK,
THE VISA-
SCREEN
LIGHT IS
PULSING!
SOMEONE
CONTACTING
US FROM
EARTH!...

I SUPPOSE YOU
HEARD, RUTH! I
CAN'T LEAVE...
YOU MUST UNDER-
STAND THAT! I
WANT TO BREAK
OUR ENGAGE-
MENT...

NO! YOU CAN SEND
IN A REQUISITION
TO GET ME ON
THE NEXT SUPPLY
SHIP! LET ME
COME TO YOU!
YOU SAID THE
STATION IS NO
PLACE FOR A
WOMAN! DARLING,
EARTH IS NO
PLACE FOR A
WOMAN WHEN
HER LOVED ONE
IS UP THERE!

A LITTLE WHILE LATER,
HE STOOD, ONCE AGAIN,
LOOKING OUT AT THE
STARS!

A MAN OWES A
GREAT DEAL TO HIS
FELLOW MEN, BUT HE
OWES SOMETHING TO
HIMSELF AS AN IN-
DIVIDUAL, TOO! COME
TO ME, RUTH... I'M
WAITING!



THE
END

The STRANGE ADVENTURE of ARCHER PROTT



ARCHER HAD A FATAL FASCINATION FOR IMPRESSIONABLE WOMEN... AND HE TURNED IT TO PROFIT...

HERE IT IS, ARCHER, DEAR THE FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS I TOLD YOU ABOUT! I KNOW HOW YOU NEED IT, SO I'LL GLADLY LEND IT TO YOU!

SPLendid, MY SWEET! YOU CAN BE SURE I'LL RETURN IT TO YOU TENFOLD!

BUT HE NEVER RETURNED IT! WHEN THE TIME CAME, HE'D BE ON HIS WAY TO GREENER FIELDS --

TOO BAD, BUT THINK WHAT SHE GOT IN EXCHANGE! MY WONDERFUL COMPANY, MY SHINING WIT--

BUT HIS MONEY SLIPPED SWIFTLY THROUGH HIS FINGERS IN ROTOUS LIVING





WITH HIS MONEY GONE, PROTT HAD TO FIND SOME NEW SOURCE FOR FUNDS. ONE DAY HE CHANCED TO SEE THE "LONELY HEARTS" COLUMN IN HIS NEWSPAPER.

AM, THE PITY OF IT--ALL THESE POOR LONELY SOULS SEARCHING FOR TRUE FRIENDSHIP! NOW HERE'S AN INTERESTING AD--

LONELY FEMALE APPEARANCE OUT OF THIS WORLD. SEEKS WITTY AFFECTIONATE COMPANION. OBJECT: MATRIMONY. WRITE FERENDA BOX 103

HERE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY IF EVER ARCHER SAW ONE! HE WROTE HER THAT VERY NIGHT...

DEAREST FERENDA, AS I READ YOUR ADVERTISEMENT I HEARD YOUR HEART CRYING OUT TO MINE ACROSS A SEA OF LONELINESS--

AM, ARCHER, YOU WOULD HAVE MADE A GREAT WRITER!



HER ANSWER CAME WITHIN DAYS...

A SPECIAL DELIVERY LETTER FOR YOU, MR. PROTT!

IT'S FROM FERENDA! HOW WONDERFUL!



BUT AS HE TOUCHED THE LETTER, ARCHER FELT AN UNACCOUNTABLE TWINGE OF FEAR!

EXCUSE ME, MR. PROTT, BUT COULD I HAVE THE STAMP ON THAT LETTER? I COLLECT THEM, YOU KNOW, AND I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE THAT BEFORE!

YOU'RE RIGHT! WHY, IT SEEMS TO GLOW!

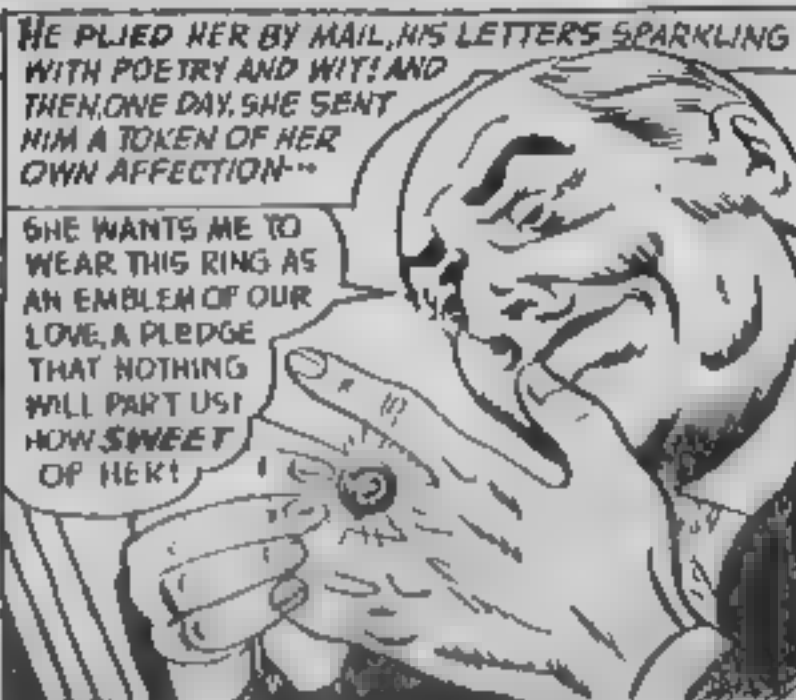
FOR A MOMENT THE DARK WING OF PREMONITION BRUSHED ACROSS HIS BRAIN BUT THEN IT WAS OVER AND HE WAS HIS CONFIDENT, EGOTISTICAL SELF AGAIN--



WELL BLESS HER DEAR SWEET, INNOCENT SOUL! SHE'S ANXIOUS TO HEAR FROM ME AGAIN -- ARCHER, I HAVE AN IDEA THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO PROGRESS BEAUTIFULLY!

HE PLIED HER BY MAIL, HIS LETTERS SPARKLING WITH POETRY AND WIT! AND THEN, ONE DAY, SHE SENT HIM A TOKEN OF HER OWN AFFECTION--

SHE WANTS ME TO WEAR THIS RING AS AN EMBLEM OF OUR LOVE, A PLEDGE THAT NOTHING WILL PART US! HOW SWEET OF HER!



THE RING LOOKED VALUABLE, BUT WHEN HE TRIED TO TAKE IT OFF...

WHAT THE --! THE DARNED THING WON'T COME OFF! IT'S AS IF IT WAS PART OF MY FINGER...

BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR DAWDLING. ARCHER SENSED THAT HIS MOMENT WAS AT HAND...

DEAR FERENDA-- HOW I LONG FOR THE MOMENT WHEN WE CAN BE TOGETHER, NEVER TO PART! BUT FIRST I HAVE CERTAIN DEBTS I MUST PAY OFF-- ONLY TEN THOUSAND...

IT WAS THE GENTLEST OF HINTS, BUT FERENDA'S ANSWER WAS DELIVERED WITHIN TWO DAYS

THIS CASE IS FOR YOU, MR. PROTT! I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING SO SMALL COULD BE SO HEAVY!



TWITCHING WITH GREEDY EXCITEMENT, HE TORE OPEN THE CASE, AND...

GREAT SCOTT! SHE'S SENT ME SOME KIND OF COINS-- I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THEM BEFORE!



HE COUNTED THEM OUT, TRYING TO CALM HIMSELF...

TEN THOUSAND OF THEM! INSTEAD OF DOLLARS SHE SENT ME THESE THINGS! IMAGINE HER PULLING A STUNT LIKE THIS ON ME!



BUT ARCHER PROTT WAS NEVER ONE TO OVER-LOOK A BET! HE TOOK A SAMPLE COIN TO A DEALER IN PRECIOUS METALS, AND THERE...

OUR ANALYSIS SHOWS THIS COIN IS MADE OF AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE URANIUM ALLOY! TEN THOUSAND OF THESE COINS WOULD BE WORTH AT LEAST A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS, AND THAT'S MY OFFER!

I'LL TAKE IT!

AND NOW ARCHER WAS ON HIS WAY TO ANOTHER HAPPY VACATION--

A QUARTER OF A MILLION! THAT OUGHT TO SET ME UP FOR LIFE!





ARCHER
CHOSE THE
SEASIDE
FOR A FEW
WEEKS OF
RELAXATION.
THAT
NIGHT...

THIS IS THE LIFE!
POOR FERENDA---SHE
THOUGHT THAT WE'D BE
TOGETHER FOREVER...



NOW, WHO COULD
THAT BE? I GAVE
ORDERS NOT TO BE
DISTURBED!

'KNOCK!
KNOCK!'



AS THE
DOOR
OPENED--

GREAT HEAVENS!
WHO...WHAT
ARE YOU?

DON'T YOU
RECOGNIZE ME,
ARCHER, MY
DEAREST?



I AM FERENDA, YOUR CHOSEN ONE!
REMEMBER, YOU SAID YOUR HEART
CRIED OUT TO MINE
ACROSS A WORLD
OF LONELINESS!

NO, NO...
GET
OUT!



I CANNOT LEAVE
WITHOUT YOU,
ARCHER!

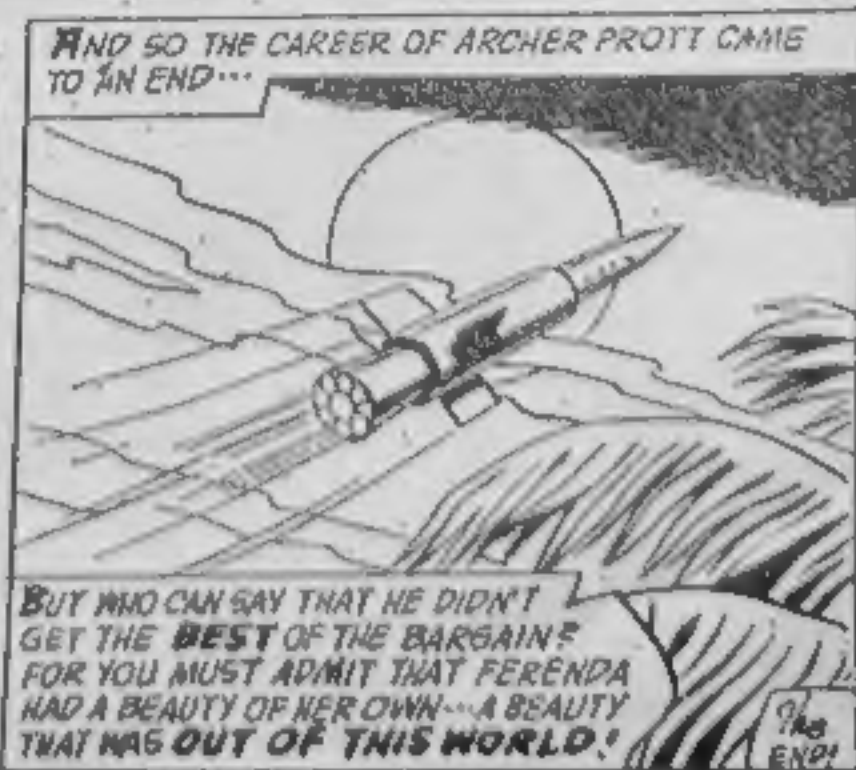
I WON'T
GO! YOU
CAN'T
MAKE
ME!



BUT
THOUGH THE
TERRIFIED
ARCHER PROTT
STRUGGLED,
HE FELT
HIMSELF
LIFTED
BY AN
INEXORABLE
FORCE...

WE MADE A BARGAIN!
WHEN YOU PUT ON MY
RING, YOU PLEDGED
THAT SOME DAY WE
WOULD LIVE IN
TOGETHERNESS
--AND THAT DAY
HAS COME! NOW
YOU MUST RETURN
TO MY PLANET
WITH ME!

NO!
N-NO...



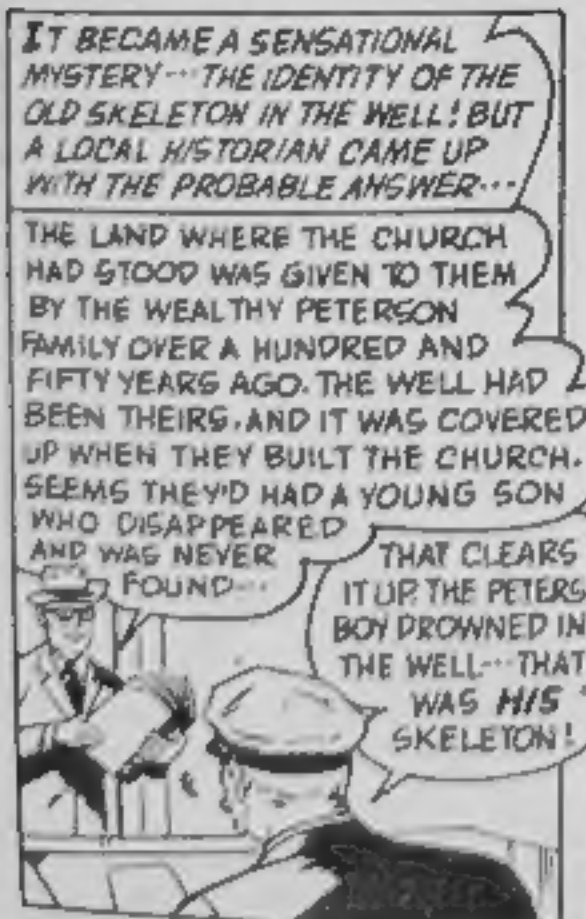
AND SO THE CAREER OF ARCHER PROTT CAME
TO AN END...

BUT WHO CAN SAY THAT HE DIDN'T
GET THE BEST OF THE BARGAIN?
FOR YOU MUST ADMIT THAT FERENDA
HAD A BEAUTY OF HER OWN--A BEAUTY
THAT WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

THE
END!

STRANGE RESCUE





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OUT OF THIS WORLD

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WEIRD PLANETS

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW